

World watches in horror as terror unfolds in NY

STORY
ON PAGE A4

Unheralded RP player humbles 'Bata' Reyes

BY DENNIS U. EROA



KUALA LUMPUR—Lee Vann Corteza stole the magic from touted compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes in the eight-ball billiard final last night, scoring a 5-4 win that highlighted the Filipinos' UNHERALDED/ A17

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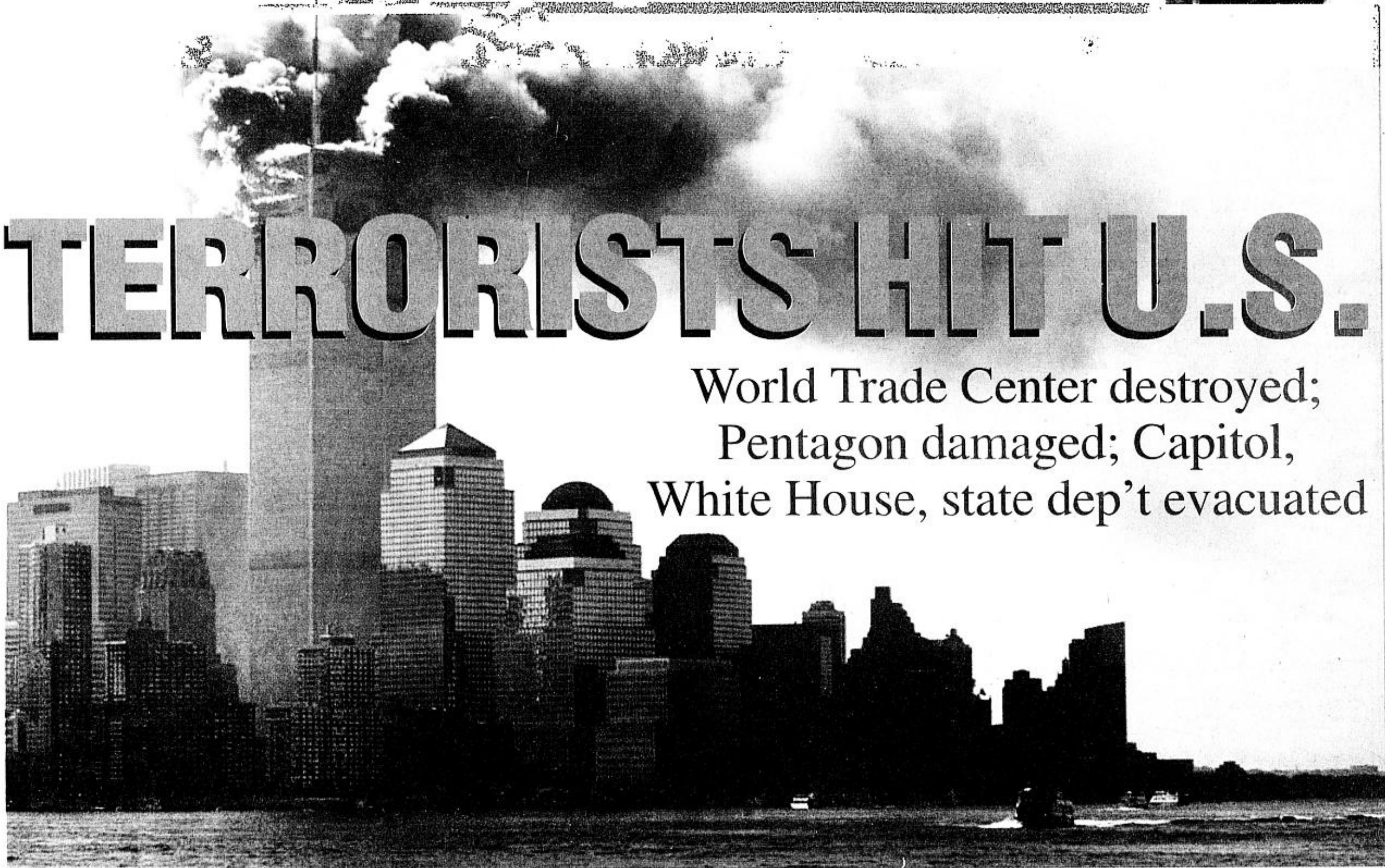
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001 ★★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 276 P45

SAUDI dissident Osama bin Laden, pictured in this undated file photo, warned three weeks ago that he and his followers would carry out an 'unprecedented attack on US interests for its support of Israel, an Arab journalist with access to him said on Tuesday.



TERRORISTS HIT U.S.

World Trade Center destroyed;
Pentagon damaged; Capitol,
White House, state dep't evacuated



AFP

'It plowed right into the Pentagon'

WASHINGTON—The enduring symbols of American power were hastily evacuated Tuesday, the White House, the Capitol and more shut down as the Pentagon was struck by an aircraft that sent billows of smoke drifting over the Potomac River toward the US capital.

An aircraft had crashed into the defense department Tuesday, and major US government buildings from the Capitol to the White House were evacuated after bomb threats.

Major government installations, including the treasury and the state department, were also evacuated.

A senior US intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, "We don't know who's doing it. Clearly, it's terrorism related, a carefully coordinated attack. It's not the work of an unsophisticated enemy. It's too soon to say who."

Paul Begala, a Democratic consultant, said he witnessed an explosion near the Pentagon.

"It was a huge fireball," Begala said in an interview on his cell phone. He said another witness told him a helicopter exploded. AP reporter Dave Winslow also saw the crash. He said, "I saw the tail of a large airliner ... It plowed right into the Pentagon."

Gen. Richard Myers, vice chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that prior to the crash into the Pentagon, military officials had been notified that another hijacked plane had been heading from the New York area to Washington. He

IT/ A4



SYMBOL of American economic power, the World Trade Center, goes up in flames after being rammed by two hijacked planes. South tower (above) collapses.

NEW YORK—The United States reeled from a terrorist firestorm Tuesday morning (starting at about 9 p.m. Manila time), after a series of horrific attacks on major American landmarks and government centers plunged the country into what President George W. Bush called "a national tragedy."

In an unprecedented sequence of destruction, terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York, causing the famous twin towers to collapse. An aircraft also crashed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and a fourth plane crashed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in an apparently coordinated series of attacks that spread fear across the nation. All four aircraft were hijacked passenger planes of American Airlines and United Airlines.

In Sarasota, Florida, President George W. Bush ordered a full-scale investigation into this "apparent terrorist attack" and to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center. Authorities scrambled to evacuate those who work at the World Trade Center, but many were thought to have been trapped.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "I don't know yet. Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror

TERRORISTS/ A4

Gloria PR man quits Pagcor but keeps other posts

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

ONE post out. How many more to go?

President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the resignation of her longtime publicist, Dante Ang, as director of the state-run Philippine Amusement and

GLORIA/ A17



110-STORY TWIN TOWERS Symbol of US economic might

NEW YORK'S World Trade Center was the symbol of America's economic might to the world.

It was built in the early 1970s to promote international commerce. Information from its website said the goal was to centralize the activities of private firms and public agencies engaged in world trade.

The hope was the building would facilitate international business contacts among members of the foreign trade community.

About 50,000 people worked inside the two buildings; more than 150,000 people entered the complex every day for business or pleasure.

Yesterday, the symbol grudgingly came crashing down after twin and apparently well-planned terrorist attacks.

The WTC's towers were skyscrapers of 110 stories each and be-

came New York's tallest buildings. One of the towers was just two meters taller than the other.

In 1962, to enhance the economic well-being of the northern New Jersey and New York metropolitan region, the legislature of the two states directed the Port Authority to construct the WTC.

The Port Authority wanted to create something aesthetically impressive.

SYMBOL/ A17

'Woman's instinct' in P90-M bust

BY TJ BURGONIO
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

IT LOOKED innocent enough—two large cartons declared as "glasses." The packaging material used to protect the breakable items, however, was downright deadly. It was shabu, made to look like cork.

Customs agents led by Maj. Esmeralda Saplafo foiled the attempt to smuggle 38.9 kilos of shabu when they discovered the parcels with the illegal drug inside Cargohaus, a customs-bonded warehouse near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City. "I was suspicious. Call it a case of woman's instinct," Saplafo said. "I scratched the surface of the encasement and had the particles subjected to a preliminary chemical analysis."

WOMAN'S/ A17

COA wants Pascual et al. to return P72M

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE COMMISSION on Audit will ask Federico Pascual, former president of the Government Service and Insurance System, and 15 former officials to return the P72 million they received under the GSIS Em-

ployee Loyalty Incentive Plan (Elip), which the commission had voided and declared illegal.

Ma. Cristina Dimagiba, GSIS-COA corporate lawyer, said the commission could file a criminal complaint to attach pieces of property of the former GSIS officials

and employees if they refused to return the money.

The commission said the Elip, which the GSIS Board approved early this year, was illegal because it contained more benefits than the regular government retirement plan.

The Elip allowed GSIS employ-

ees to get as much as P13.5 million in gratuity pay and P94,000 in monthly pension.

Dimagiba said the COA, a quasi-judicial body, would issue separate notices of disallowance to the 16 retired GSIS officials and employees.

"But I am sure that they (GSIS) will appeal it," Dimagiba said.

Even with the issuance of the notice of disallowance, the GSIS might not follow the COA order to invalidate the lucrative Elip package, according to Dimagiba.

COA/ A17



Second FRONT PAGE

Isafp has new witness

BY CARLITO PABLO

FEARING for his life, a new witness has come out and volunteered to testify on the alleged involvement in drug trafficking and kidnapping of police officers and associates of former police chief, now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Remus Garganera, earlier described as the "warehouseman" of Supt. John Campos, the former handler and lover of main witness Mary "Rosebud" Ong, has placed himself and his family under the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

An Isafp officer said Garganera claimed to have personal knowledge of the illegal activities of Lacson, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, former head of the PNP-Narcotics Group; Campos; Supt. Francisco Villaroman and several others.

Ong had implicated all four in her testimony last week before the Senate investigation into high-level police involvement in the illegal drug trade.

"Garganera will execute a full sworn statement detailing what he knows," said the Isafp officer who

spoke on condition of anonymity. "We have yet to know the extent of what he knows."

Abduction rumors

Rumors about Garganera's alleged abduction by the Isafp agents started circulating last Monday.

Garganera is said to have disappeared some two days ago after being arrested in Cadiz, Negros Occidental, by the PNP command there on the strength of three arrest warrants issued by a Bacolod court for "robbery in band."

Reports said that after Garganera was released on bail, Isafp agents immediately arrested him.

Yesterday, Acop, who has admitted that Garganera was an aide of Campos, said Isafp had finally succeeded in its effort to "entice and threaten" Garganera.

"They've taken him in and now they'll bribe him," he said.

Acop claimed that the family of Garganera had approached Campos to help locate him. They were also said to have asked for assistance in filing a petition of habeas corpus to compel the authorities to release Garganera.

Acop said that Garganera, whom he does not personally know, could have been offered money for his testimony.

All political now

"It's all political now. How can we fight the Isafp?" said Acop.

PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza said there was "no abduction" of Garganera by the Isafp.

He said Garganera had turned himself in to the Negros Occidental police over the weekend.

Garganera was scheduled to be flown to Manila from Iloilo last night.

He has executed a one-page sworn statement dated Sept. 10, 2001 admitting he was the same Garganera described by Ong as the warehouseman of Campos.

He said that as a result of Ong's Senate testimony, he has received information that "suspicious-looking persons were seen within the vicinity of my residence at Sagay City" and "were obviously looking for and waiting for me."

"I feel that those unidentified persons were sent out to prevent me from coming out and revealing whatever personal knowledge I have in connection with the charges made by Mary Ong," Garganera said.

Since it has been said that "dead men tell no tales, I now begin to fear for my life," Garganera said.

'Dead men tell no tales'

Garganera made the same declaration in a separate letter to Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus who left the country last Sunday.

The Isafp officer said that Garganera, who was assisted by his lawyer, Erle del Castillo-Caldit, had contacted Isafp last week and asked for protection.

But it was only last Sunday that Isafp placed Garganera under the protection of military intelligence agents in Bacolod City. From there, he was moved to Iloilo.

The Isafp officer said there were reports that Villaroman had flown to

Bacolod and allegedly tried to convince Garganera's relatives to dissuade him from coming out.

The same officer said a relative of Campos also allegedly joined Villaroman in this effort.

Ong had testified that Garganera was a "pulis-pulisan" (police civilian asset) who was one of Campos' two closest aides, the other being Ritchie Watanabe.

Garganera was supposed to have returned to his native Sagay City after Lacson and his trusted lieutenants at the PNP were replaced following the ouster of jailed President Joseph Estrada last January.

Rosebud's documents

Meanwhile, Ong yesterday went to the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame yesterday to submit documents on her testimony.

The CIDG is investigating the involvement of Acop, Campos, Villaroman and other police officers in the drug trade and would file criminal charges against them if there is enough proof.

"There are so many of them (police officers involved in drugs). I have mentioned some of them and there are more. I will name more names in the Senate hearing," Ong told reporters.

CIDG head Deputy Director Gen. Nestorio Gualberto said they will be fair and thorough in their investigation.

Ong said the documents she submitted, contained in two folders and two plastic containers, would exonerate her from Acop's charges that she was part of the Chinese criminal triad groups.

With a report from Alcuin Papa

Lacson, aide ask SC to junk DOJ appeal

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

SEN. Panfilo Lacson and former Police Chief Supt. Michael Ray Aquino have asked the Supreme Court to junk a Department of Justice petition seeking to revive kidnapping, murder and wiretapping charges filed against them in connection with Operations Cyclops and Athena.

The charges, which were filed with the DOJ last February, also implicated other members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force which Lacson had headed.

Operations Athena and Cyclops were joint projects of the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police Region IV office in 1998 aimed at neutralizing top Chinese-Filipino drug lords and smaller drug dealers.

In a joint comment dated Sept. 10, Lacson and Aquino said the Supreme Court should uphold the June 22 order and the June 25 preliminary injunction issued by Manila Judge Hermogenes Liwag stopping the DOJ's preliminary investigation of the cases.

Lacson and Aquino's lawyer, Philip Sigfrid Fortun, said petitioners Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco "have been unable to prove grave

abuse of discretion amounting to lack of excess of jurisdiction on the part of the public respondents."

He said the petitioners also failed to demonstrate an "urgency and compelling reason to excuse compliance with the rule on hierarchy of courts" and for the issuance of a TRO or writ of preliminary injunction.

"Thus petitioners, are entitled to no relief from this honorable court," Fortun argued.

In filing the comment, Lacson and Aquino opposed the DOJ's petition for certiorari and prohibition under Rule 65 of the Revised Rules of Civil Procedure against Liwag's injunction.

Liwag's order blocked the DOJ from investigating the kidnapping-for-ransom, drug trafficking and wiretapping complaints filed by ex-PAOCTF agent Mary Ong against Lacson, five ranking police officials and a number of junior officers.

Perez and Wycoco had asked the SC to intervene by lifting the freeze order and allowing the government to conduct the investigations.

Ong filed the criminal charges against Lacson, Aquino, Reynaldo Acop, John Campos, Francisco Villaroman and Francisco Zubia before the Office of the Ombudsman in January this year.

Nationwide rallies to send Gloria off to Japan today

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leaves today on a four-day state visit to Japan, amid a send-off of simultaneous labor rallies in Manila and key cities nationwide.

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno said it would mobilize 50,000 workers and students to urge the President to support its demand for a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

Elmer Labog, KNU secretary general, said workers will not gain anything from the President's Japan trip, "since she will just be enticing foreign investors into the country and peddling again piece by piece our cheap and exploited labor force."

"It's the height of callousness for her to run off amid strong protests," Labog said.

The Department of Labor and Employment said the President's trip should improve the local employment situation in the long run.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who is in the President's 14-member delegation, said the Philippine government is expected to extend a friendlier hand to Japanese investors who have helped prop

up local employment in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Sto. Tomas said she will explain the labor situation in the Philippines, which some Japanese investors have found to be "problematic."

Sto. Tomas has stated that the militant image of local unions has no basis in fact since only a small number of organized workers could be considered militant.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, KNU chair, said the President snubbed him and other labor leaders when they sought an audience with her last Monday to get her endorsement for the P125 wage hike bill he filed in Congress.

Instead of facing the labor leaders, Beltran said Ms Macapagal referred them to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"Although the President issued a statement saying she would think over the legislated wage hike issue, she also confirmed her preference for the regional wage boards (to tackle the problem)," Beltran said.

Sto. Tomas has given the regional wage boards until Oct. 27 to resolve wage hike petitions filed by labor groups in Metro Ma-

nila and Western Visayas and Central Visayas.

This will be the President's third trip, abroad since assuming the presidency last January, and her first to a non-Asean member country.

She has visited Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, all partners of the Philippines in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The President is looking forward to a meeting with Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and other members of Japan's Imperial Family.

On the official side, Ms Macapagal is scheduled to meet with Japanese officials led by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Prime Minister's Residence.

During their talks, the two leaders are expected to discuss bilateral and regional issues, especially those affecting both countries and Asean.

Later, during her keynote address before the Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce, she is expected to call on Japanese investors to consider the Philippines, as the site of their expansion programs, especially in the information and communications technology sector.

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Abu trial starts tomorrow

A COURT yesterday set for this week the trial of an alleged leader of the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf.

Judge Leonardo Reyes set for tomorrow the start of the trial of Hector Janjalani on a capital charge of carrying 207 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), a prohibited drug.

Janjalani, 28, was brought in handcuffs and under heavy guard for pre-trial proceedings at the Manila court.

Janjalani, covering his handcuffed hands with a pink towel, shook his head as a government prosecutor read the charges. The prosecutor brought out evidence, including the seized drugs and Janjalani's confiscated wallet containing his driver's license under a fake name and Indonesian currency.

He is also in Basilan and Jolo for alleged murder and kidnappings.

Police said Janjalani was carrying the drug when they arrested him and a friend in a shopping mall in Manila Dec. 16. They said Janjalani traveled to Manila to sell a video of American hostage Jeffrey Schilling to local and foreign television networks.

Schilling, of Oakland, California, escaped from the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo early this year after almost eight months in captivity.

Janjalani is the

older brother of Khadaffi Janjalani, who currently leads the Abu Sayyaf which rose to international notoriety last year when they kidnapped and later freed scores of foreigners reportedly in exchange for huge ransoms.

The rebels are currently holding 20 hostages, including Americans, in Basilan.

Fidel Macauyag, lawyer for Janjalani, denied his client was with the Abu Sayyaf and said police framed him. Janjalani acknowledged he once traveled to an Abu Sayyaf camp in Jolo, about 940 km south of Manila, to help government negotiators access the guerrillas.

Abu Sayyaf leaders they are fighting for an independent Islamic nation in the Southern Philippines but the government regards them as mere bandits. AP



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Ping: It's Angara, not me, in 2004

BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

SEN. PANFILO Lacson was far from vacation mode yesterday when he reacted to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao's statement that the senator would not make a strong contender for president in 2004.

Lacson, who is in the United States on a two-week vacation, agreed with Tiglao that Sen. Edgardo Angara, not he, was the one who would beat President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

"Mr. Tiglao is right. I should not be considered at all as a candidate. I do not consider myself one. It is Senator Angara who would be the strong candidate because of his showing in the last senatorial election," Lacson said in a statement.

The embattled Lacson, who is facing a Senate inquiry into allegations he was involved in criminal activities, was reacting to Tiglao's statement the other day that Lacson was "flattering" himself if he thought he was a strong presidential contender.

Tiglao had said Angara, not Lacson, was the opposition's best bet for 2004 because his fourth-place finish in the May senatorial elections was the highest by the opposition. Lacson finished 10th in the polls.

Lacson said Angara or anyone in the opposition could easily beat Ms. Macapagal, "because her administration has not done anything in the past eight months but engage in dirty politics to destroy the opposition and ensure her political survival."

Gloria won't fire 3 execs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo continues to have confidence in, and has not indicated that she would replace, the three members of her official family who have been mired in controversy the past week.

In fact, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President has submitted for confirmation the appointment of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez who has been charged with plunder before the Ombudsman by a group of airport concessionaires over the construction of the Naia Terminal 3.

Armed Forces Chief Diomedio Villanueva, whose alleged meddling in operational matters reportedly helped the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, also continues to enjoy Ms. Macapagal's confidence, Tiglao said.

Neither is National Food Authority Administrator Antonio Abad in danger of losing his post after his comments about the President's acting on wrong information on the rice issue enraged Ms. Macapagal on air last Friday.

"She is confident that Alvarez is not the (cause of the) mess," Tiglao, said yesterday of the alleged irregularities in the Naia Terminal 3 contract.

Alvarez will be joining the President's working visit to Japan which starts today.

Alvarez yesterday briefed the Cabinet on the charges brought against him by the Manila International Airport-Ninoy Aquino International Airport Service Operators (Masop).

"Secretary Alvarez believes that the target is not himself but the completion of Naia Terminal 3," Tiglao said.

Alvarez said that Maso was "just two people who insist on calling themselves an association."

He named businessmen Lucio Tan and Ricky Delgado whose companies, MacroAsia Corp. and Manila Integrated Airport Services Corp. (Miascor), respectively, have interests in the Naia 3 terminal project.

Alvarez said the Tan-owned Philippine Airlines did not want to move to the Naia 3 when it is completed because it wants to maintain its monopoly of Naia 2.

"They're doing this in the hope that I will panic and use my (position) to support their commercial interests," he said.

He said PAL was claiming that Naia 2 was built for it.

"How could the government borrow money to build a terminal and then give it to PAL for its exclusive use? That's unreasonable. This involved a huge amount of borrowings," Alvarez said. Abigail L. Ho and Juliet Labog-Javellana



ALVAREZ

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La Liga assembly set Sept. 15

THE LA LIGA Filipina will hold its second national assembly on Sept. 15, at the Club Filipino in San Juan to craft strategies and specific actions for nation-building, sound governance and adaptation to globalization.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. will keynote the assembly and plenary workshops among close to 500 civic and political leaders from all over the country.

Former Agrarian Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales, Isagani Serrano, senior vice president of the Philippine Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) and conference chair Edicio de la Torre will also deliver speeches that would provide proper perspective in understanding the national situation.

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'It plowed ...

(From page A1)

said he assumed that hijacked plane was the one that hit the Pentagon, though he couldn't be sure.

Wild and crazy

"This shows what an uncontrollable world we live in. This is crazy, wild and crazy," said Sen. Herb Kohl as the disruptions hit Washington within an hour after two planes flew directly into the World Trade Center towers in New York.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the FBI suspects the events in New York and Washington were part of an organized terrorist campaign.

• A car bomb exploded outside the state department, senior law enforcement officials said.

• A loud explosion was reported in the vicinity of the Capitol.

• The departments of justice, state, treasury and defense were among those ordered evacuated, as were the Capitol and the White House. In a remarkable scene, security guards brandishing automatic weapons could be seen outside the White House.

• The FAA ordered the entire US nationwide air traffic system shut down.

AP

Terrorists attack America

(From page A1)

group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list ... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden. (See photo on Page A1.)

Within an hour of the attack on the towers, an aircraft crashed on a helicopter landing pad near the Pentagon, the world's largest office building, and the White House, the defense department and the Capitol were evacuated.

Hijacked planes

One of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center was American Airlines Flight 11, hijacked after takeoff from Boston en route to Los Angeles, the airline said. American Airlines issued a statement saying it had "lost" two aircraft—Flight 11, with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77 from Washington to Los Angeles, carrying 64 people.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, crashed about 130 kilometers southeast of Pittsburgh. The fate of those aboard was not immediately known and it was not clear if the crash was related to the disasters elsewhere. In a statement, the airline also said it was deeply concerned about another plane, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles.

Authorities went on alert from coast to coast, halting all air traffic, evacuating high-profile buildings and tightening security at strategic installations. The situation room at the

White House was in full operation.

War zone

At the World Trade Center, once the world's tallest building, "everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a fire marshal. "It's like a war zone."

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Iann, shaking in shock outside City Hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him. "I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Nearby, a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was up to 3 inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilized its anti-terrorism division, and security was intensified around the naval facilities in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Twin towers

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. A witness said he saw bodies falling and people jumping out. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

World watches in horror as terror unfolds in New York

LONDON—Astonishing terrorist strikes in the United States quickly reached a global audience Tuesday, with many around the world watching live coverage of an aircraft hitting the World Trade Center.

Audiences were transfixed by the awful images

from New York, where both World Trade Center towers collapsed.

Key indexes sank on world stock markets and some European airlines canceled flights to the United States and recalled planes already in the air.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his condolences to the American people over the terrorist attacks, calling the "terrible tragedies," the Kremlin press service said.

"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today," said Prime Minister Tony Blair, who canceled a speech at a trade union conference. "It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we the democracies of this world are going to have to come together and fight it together."

President Jacques Chirac of France, in a nationally televised statement, called the attacks in the United States "monstrous" and expressed his solidarity with the American people.

"France has just learned of these mon-

strous attacks, there is no other word for it, that have hit America," Chirac said from Rennes, in the western region of Brittany.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his top aides followed the events at his seaside office in Gaza City, gathered around a TV set.

"I send my condolences to the president, the government and the people for this terrible incident," said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable."

The leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction, denied Tuesday that his group was behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We are not responsible for this type of terror attack. We are against it," said Qais Abdel Rahim, the head of the DFLP in the West Bank.

Earlier Tuesday, the West Bank office of the Qatar-based TV station Al Jazeera received a call from a man who claimed responsibility on behalf of the DFLP. However, Al Jazeera officials said they did not put stock in the claim, which was not broadcast by the station.

In Berlin, foreign ministry officials in Berlin huddled in a crisis meeting, and Parliament's Vice Speaker Anke Fuchs told lawmakers a "terrible catastrophe" had happened.

Virtually all German TV channels switched to live coverage. "This is

pure mass murder," one commentator said.

Scandinavian Airlines System, SAS, rerouted three airplanes bound for New York and one for Washington from Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Flights to the United States were suspended from Portugal, and the Belgian airline recalled two flights on the way to the United States, diverted others to Canada and canceled all planned flights to the United States.

In Thailand, Suranand Vejajiva, a spokesperson for the office of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said they were watching the news in disbelief.

In Manila, a spokesperson for Philippine

President Macapagal-Arroyo said: "The President has been monitoring the events since an hour ago and she condemns what is obviously the worst terrorist attack on a leader of civilized society."

Broadcasters around the world broke into programming to show images of the disaster.

"It's incredible. I thought I was watching a Hollywood movie," said Hong Kong school teacher Doris Tang.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of ter-

ror groups is on that list."

He named Osama Bin Laden and Hezbollah as possible suspects.

Rohan Gunaratna of Britain's Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence in Scotland said Bin Laden was the only one with the capability to conduct so many separate operations simultaneously.

But Professor Paul Rogers, of Bradford University's Peace Department in central England, warned against assuming Middle East extremists were behind the tragedy.

"We've been here before," he said. "With Oklahoma, everybody assumed it was Middle East, then it turned out to be home-grown Timothy McVeigh."

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WORLD famous twin towers where 50,000 people worked.

AP

Wall Street grounds to a halt

NEW YORK—Wall Street shut down Tuesday after two separate planes crashed into the World Trade Center in what President George W. Bush called an apparent terrorist attack.

Much of the downtown district, including the nearby Financial Center, was also evacuated. It was also difficult to make phone calls to the downtown business district and throughout Manhattan.

Trading was suspended at the New York Stock Exchange, and officials were deciding whether to shut for the entire day. The Nasdaq Stock Market said it was still considering an 11:30 a.m. EDT (1530 GMT) opening, but no final decision had been made.

Other markets did close: the American Stock Exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The World Trade Center and nearby World Financial Center, which houses the NYMEX, were also evacuated.

Reports of attacks on the Department of State and on the Pentagon in Washington and the collapse of both of the World Trade Center skyscrapers added to the paralysis and terror already engulfing the financial district.

Hundreds of companies sent their employees home for the day, putting thousands of New Yorkers into the streets after public transportation was shut down for fear of more attacks.

"The two explosions were incredible and at the point of explosions all you could see outside were personal belongings and office supplies raining outside," said Bob Rendine, an American Stock Exchange spokesperson, whose office is down the block from the

NYSE. "We're staying here. We think it's safer to stay inside than go outside at this point."

Business and trading in other parts of the country also were affected. The Chicago Board of Trade also suspended all trading effective, 10:15 a.m.

Overseas, the London Stock Exchange evacuated its building but said trade will continue from an alternate site.

Around America and world, the investment community was focused on the fate of people working in the World Trade Center affected by the apparent terrorist attacks. There were reports of people jumping out of buildings.

"I'm just worried about people who are there," said Robert Harrington, head of listed block trading at UBS Warburg's office in Connecticut.

AP

House feud worries 'idealistic' neophytes

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

IDEALISM, apparently, still lives in Congress.

Yesterday, 14 neophyte representatives expressed concern over the controversy generated by the "Gang of Five" issue and the repercussions this is having on the House of Representatives.

The young lawmakers signed a "statement of concern" calling on the House leadership to "resolve this issue at the soonest possible time."

"Though our idealism asks for much more, it demands no less," the solons declared.

The statement was signed by Representatives Ruffy Biazon (Muntinlupa), Abraham Mitra (Palawan), Wimpy Fuentebella (Camarines Sur), Lala Talino-Santos (North Cotabato), Darlene Antonino-Custodio (South Cotabato), Gilbert Remulla (Cavite), Frank Perez (Batangas), Jack Duavit (Rizal), Sherwin Gatchalian (Valenzuela), Soraya Jaafar (Tawi-

Tawi), Eileen Ermita-Buhain (Batangas), Maite Defensor (Quezon City), Vince Garcia (Davao City) and Geogilou Yumul (Quezon).

Representatives Prospero Pichay (Surigao Del Sur), Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental), Rolox Suplico (Iloilo), Eduardo Veloso (Leyte) and Aniceto Saludo (Southern Leyte) as members of the "gang" were alleged to have extorted money from subjects of congressional inquiries.

The group, in turn, has pointed to House majority floor leader Neptali Gonzales II and his deputy, Francis Joseph Escudero (Sorsogon), as the sources of published reports against them.

"The ongoing feud has unfortunately tainted the reputation and honor not only of the accused—the so-called Gang of Five—but those of the reported accusers," the freshmen solons noted.

The congressmen said they were "fearful the public perception unfairly identifies us, as well as the other members of the House, with this negative issue."

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'WHEN FOUL IS FAIR'

(The hard facts about the cement industry otherwise not revealed by the importers.)

Is there a cement cartel?

No. But if the local industry is demolished, there could be one.

At present, there are 17 local cement manufacturers. Several are fully-owned or controlled by Filipinos, while others have foreign investors who invested in the industry when it was on the verge of collapse in 1998 due to the Asian financial crisis. These companies are fierce competitors.

There are also nine cement importers, which had captured as much as 35% of the local market. The fact that these importers exist belies their own claims that a cartel exists in the cement industry.

A cartel uses foul means to eliminate competition. These include dumping, price manipulation and speculation. So far, such means are being used by the importers to increase their market share from 1.4 percent in 1998 to 22% as of July 2001. For the month of July, importers have grabbed 35% of the market.

It should be noted that the importers' market share of 22% is larger than any of the manufacturers. Union Cement, the market leader, only has 18.11% market share. Republic Cement Group, that includes 4 cement companies, only has 14%. The Apo Group, consisting of 3 companies, has a market share of 15.68%. Alsons has a market share of 6.05%.

If a cartel exists, it could not be possible that the competitors (importers) can have a bigger share of the business.

Incidentally, in June 2000, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) concluded in a study that no cartel exists in the local cement industry.

However, there is danger that once the local cement manufacturing industry is demolished through such means as dumping, price manipulation and speculation, the cement cartel of importers will dominate. Foul and unfair means are the trademarks of a cartel. And this early, such foul trademarks are most apparent in the efforts of the importers to demolish the local cement industry.

For a cartel, "foul is fair" as the bard would say.

But why would "consumers groups" defend the importers?

Sadly, the groups claiming to represent the consumers are being misled. They are fed with lies that imports have lowered cement prices, and that import-dependence and the dismantling of local manufacturers would lead to the common good. These are farthest from the truth.

The fact is, the entry of an estimated 37.5 million bags of imported cement into the country in year 2000 alone has not really resulted in lower consumer prices of cement.

Why? Because the importers sell imported cement at prices very slightly lower, at times comparable and sometimes higher than prices of locally manufactured cement.

And because the importers have very large margins of profit and incur no production costs, they can afford to give a higher spread to distributors. Thus the distributors now prefer to sell imported cement, where they can make more profits, rather than locally-produced cement.

On profits, who makes the most profit, the local manufacturers or the importers?

To put up a medium-sized cement plant, it would take about five years to build and approximately P10-P15 billion in costs. In the early 1990s, as the government enticed local players to modernize and in the aftermath of the 1997 Asia crisis, when the government invited foreign investments, a total of \$2.1 billion foreign investments were poured into the industry.

In other words, it takes enormous investments to engage in local manufacturing. Aside from production and operational costs, the manufacturers also employ thousands of workers.

Importers, on the other hand, only need a small office, a handful of employees and an import permit to bring in imported cement sourced abroad at very cheap prices. Based on records, the nine importers, which employ a total of no more than 100 workers, have a total capitalization of only US\$9 million (P460 million). About 95% of this capital are owned by 2 100% owned foreign corporations: TCC Cement Corporation (owned lock, stock and barrel by Taiwanese billionaire Jeffrey Koo's Taiwan Cement Corporation) and Southern Cross (wholly owned by 3 Japanese firms). Compare this with US\$2.1 billion (P17 billion) in new investments alone in 1998 to the local cement manufacturing industry, or compare it with the cost of just one local plant of P10 to P15 billion.

Importers bring in cement at landed costs of as low as P52 per bag from Indonesia, P86 per bag from Taiwan and P75 per bag from Japan, as compared to the average ex-plant cost of local cement at P134 per bag. They sell the Indonesian cement at an average retail price of P144 per bag, slightly lower than the average retail of local cement at P144.67 per bag.

For Indonesian cement alone, the importers make a profit of P82.39 per bag, as compared with the P10.67 per bag profits for local cement. And because of the enormous profits they earn, importers are able to entice more distributors with better margins to sell imported cement rather than local cement.

In other words, traders and retailers make more money selling imported cement than local cement. This is the reason why imported cement is dominating the market, displacing by 35% the market share of locally produced cement for July 2001.

With huge war chest, therefore, it is no wonder that the importers can influence even judges and lawmakers.

Why can't local producers simply lower their prices to recapture the market?

This cannot be done. Local producers cannot engage in a price war with the importers, because the advantages are heavily stacked in favor of the latter.

Because of the huge profit margins that they can play with, without investments and costs incurred from production, with no social stake other than the profit motive, the importers can easily lower their prices to levels that can instantly kill the local cement manufacturing industry.

Interestingly, perhaps because of the prospect of earning bigger profits, they have not

really lowered their selling prices to consumers. They are in fact selling at prices at par or even higher than local prices. But still they continue to get greater share of the market because traders and distributors simply make more money selling their products. It is the classic strategy at "having the cake, and eating it too."

Since they are already swelling their pockets with enormous margins while the industry still exists, it is certain that they will not be fair to consumers once they succeed in demolishing the local industry and dominating the market.

For consumer groups, therefore, to allow themselves to be duped at taking the cudgels for predatory importers out to destroy Philippine industries is actually being anti-consumer, and anti-people.

What benefits does import surge bring?

For the consumers, as illustrated, nothing because the retail prices of imports are the same or higher than local cement.

For the construction industry, nothing too. Unless of course, the contractor is also an importer in which case, he is earning exorbitant profits at the expense of government (because his bid may quote local prices) or his other clients.

For the local cement manufacturing industry, however, the injury is enormous and may be fatal. For July alone, it has suffered a market loss of up to 35%. Import surge caused many local plants to either close or slowdown. Thus, thousands of workers have been laid off, affecting about 24,000 people directly dependent on the local cement industry.

Imports in year 2000 alone reached more than 1.5 million metric tons, or 37.5 million bags worth about P40 billion. Because of the import surge and shrinking of the market for locally-manufactured cement, the unit costs of cement have become higher, since fixed costs incurred in production have to be spread to less number of units produced.

For the workers and their families, unabated imports would mean the loss of their jobs and livelihood.

For communities and local governments, the flooding of imports would mean the loss of economic opportunity and the specter of economic depression and worse, the breakdown of peace and order.

For the nation, the specter of reverting to import dependence on a product that the country ironically has plenty of, as well as the loss of a major contributor to the economy in terms of jobs, investments, taxes, and economic opportunity.

What remedies can be done to prevent the total collapse of the local cement industry?

The local cement industry is not asking for a ban on imports but to level the playing field. A 50% tariff on the landed cost of imports will result in a landed cost that is still lower than ex-plant costs (P129 landed cost as against P134 ex-plant). Under fairer conditions, the industry can compete with imports, as well as other neighboring cement producing countries. But the methods so far used by the importers are far from fair.

Thus, the local cement industry, cement workers, local governments representing their constituents and communities, and other sectors and industries similarly affected and concerned by the dumping of imports of many products, have asked the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for safeguards under the Safeguard Measures Act.

Specifically, the industry has asked for the increase in tariff rates for imported cement from the current 5% to 50% for a temporary duration of only 200 days.

Such request is most reasonable and just. Other countries, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and India, maintain tariffs on cement imports ranging from 10 to 100%. The increase in tariffs will not result in increased prices because they are imposed on the landed costs of cement, not on retail prices. Since the landed costs of imports are low, a 50% tariff will still result in a lower landed cost for importers than local ex-plant price. Imported cement will still be in the market. The tariff will merely reduce the exorbitant profits of the importers, and benefit government through higher tax revenues.

Also, 2 of the largest local manufacturers, Union Cement and the Republic Group, have announced that they will not increase prices during the 200 day period the 50% tariff is in place. Thus, other manufacturers will not be able to raise their prices or they risk being priced out of their market.

THE REAL ISSUE:

THE REAL issue here is the protection of local industries and Filipino jobs, and the defense of national interest.

The demise of the cement industry will ultimately lead to a situation where importers will dictate their prices, as real cartels do. In such situation, importers will have indiscriminate authority to dictate quality, quantity and prices of cement. Consequently, the Philippines will revert back to import dependence.

Let us not destroy what we already have. Rather, let us build on it.

Save the local cement industry, save the jobs of Filipinos!

Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corporation (PHILCEMCO)

Philippine Cement Workers Council (PCWC)



OPINION

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Easy money

LATELY a number of taxi drivers have been answering the question posed by the very popular television game show "Who wants to be a millionaire?" But they have to know much more than driving to achieve that dream, and so far no one among them has even come close to winning a million pesos.

Still one driver got a windfall recently, and he didn't have to phone a friend, ask the audience or pick from 50-50. Juanito D. Garnier Sr. took much longer than the 30 minutes or so that contestants have to occupy the "hot seat" to win for himself P843,243. Garnier had to be literally in the driver's seat for many years, probably even decades to get that amount from the Government Service Insurance System upon his retirement at the age of 63.

Garnier is very lucky. A driver earning P12,000 monthly in a private company will have to work for 70 years to get that kind of a financial bonanza, given a retirement benefit of one month's salary for every year of service. His counterpart in the bureaucracy, earning a top salary of P8,709 monthly, will have to work from the time of his birth to get a similar gratuity at the age of 63.

Even so Garnier may have reasons to gripe. Federico Pascual, who had a basic monthly pay of P356,979 as president and general manager, took home a retirement package worth P16.7 million after working for only two and half years in the government financial institution.

The bulk of Pascual's retirement package, amounting to P11.44 million, came from the GSIS Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan (ELIP). Seven other senior GSIS officials who retired this year were awarded similarly huge sums under the ELIP, ranging from P4.32 million to P7.89 million.

Curiously the ELIP was approved by the GSIS board on Jan. 16, 2001. That was a time when mass protest actions against President Joseph Estrada were reaching a climax. Could it be that Pascual and other members of the board rushed the manufacture of the golden parachute knowing that the Estrada presidency was doomed? If so, that makes ELIP a very self-serving and immoral scheme to secure their future.

Not only that, ELIP is also illegal, according to the Commission on Audit. Ma. Cristina D. Dimagiba, the GSIS-COA corporate auditor, said the ELIP violates a Supreme Court ruling prohibiting the creation of any insurance or retirement plan other than what is prescribed by law. She said the ELIP couldn't be an early retirement plan because those who availed themselves of the program were already of retirement age. And while it was referred to as financial assistance, she said, ELIP actually "constituted additional retirement benefits...beyond what is allowed under existing retirement laws promulgated by the GSIS for all government employees."

Under the law, all government employees are paid upon their retirement one month's salary for every year of service if they work for 20 years or less; one and half month's pay for every year beyond 20 up to 30; and two months for every year served thereafter. However, the GSIS has limited the gratuity to P10,000 for every year of service and imposed a P180,000 ceiling regardless of how many years an employee has worked. Over and above this, GSIS officials and employees get one and a half months' pay for each of the first 20 years of service, two months' pay for each of the succeeding 10 years and two and a half months' pay for every year thereafter under the ELIP.

In other words, the ELIP has made GSIS officials and employees more equal than others in the government service. GSIS officials are "acting like the stepsisters of Cinderella who took the latter's wealth and made her life miserable," said COA general counsel Santos Alquizalas who declared the ELIP null and void.

Why GSIS officials would give themselves incentive bonuses, nobody knows. If GSIS were a school, Pascual would not have been awarded a loyalty medal after being there for just more than two years.

If Pascual was loyal to anyone, it was only to Estrada, not to his oath as a government official. By his own admission, he allowed himself to be pressured by Estrada into investing P1.1 billion of GSIS funds in Belle Corp. So why would he be given P11.44 million in what amounts to a loyalty bonus?

Sadly those to whom President Macapagal has entrusted the government retirement fund don't seem to be any better. Instead of condemning and rescinding this immoral and illegal retirement plan, GSIS president Winston Garcia is defending it and harassing the auditors who disallowed the payment of such benefits by ordering their offices transferred to a much smaller space near the kitchen in the GSIS building. He probably wants to get what his predecessor got: a huge loyalty bonus for serving his own interest.

SEN. Panfilo Lacson must be a man both very much hated and very much loved the way people follow with such passion his troubles, his prosecution or persecution, depending on whose side you are. He just goes to Hong Kong, the same way tens of thousands of others do every day, and it is big news. So many readers have asked me what I think of the dismissal of the Kuratong-Baleleng multiple murder case against him. They want me to explain why such a big case can be dismissed without even a trial in spite of all the efforts of the government to pursue it.

I reply that I'm not a lawyer and that they should ask a lawyer to explain it to them. They say that laymen find it hard to understand the language of lawyers and that journalists like me can explain it better to them.

Challenged, I studied the records of the case, both legal and journalistic, especially the decision of the Court of Appeals dismissing the case, which is the last word on it so far, (it has been elevated to the Supreme Court). I here now try to explain it to non-lawyers as best as I can, minus the legal gobbledegook.

The first and most significant thing that the people should understand is that the courts do not determine the guilt or innocence of Lacson and his co-accused. Neither did the CA dismiss the case because of double jeopardy. It was dismissed because the two-year prescriptive period to revive the case, after its dismissal by a lower court, has already lapsed. In other words, the courts do not know whether or not Lacson is guilty. That the charge against him has been dropped is the fault of the prosecution; it tried to revive the case too late.

Perhaps a brief background is necessary, without the legal refinements.

If you will remember, Lacson and other police officers were charged in 1995 with the massacre of 11 members of the Kuratong-Baleleng gang on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. The accused claim it was a shootout but witnesses said it was a rubout. The charges were filed initially with the Sandiganbayan but later transferred

SOMEONE remonstrated with me last weekend. Victor Corpus, she said, has taken on a noble and heroic crusade to bring to national attention the extent of narco-politics in this country and to push it back, if not stop it altogether. He needs our unstinting support. That means, among others, writing encouraging things about what he is doing. That does not mean, at the very least, writing discouraging things about it.

But I do support Corpus. I do support Mary Ong. I do support the groups that are supporting them, chief of them Katotohanan, a spin-off from Kompil, the coalition of civil society groups that helped mightily to put an end to Estrada's gangster state. They just had a forum at the Ateneo last weekend, which I wanted to go to but could not because of gout. Whether you call the problem "narco-politics," or fascist politics, or plain criminals masquerading as law enforcers, it is an alarming one and truly something we should start doing something about. It is well past due.

I do support what they are trying to do. What I do not support is how they are trying to do it.

All that Corpus, Jose Almonte and the military intelligence community have shown so far is that there may be reason to believe that PNP officials, particularly the ones identified with the past administration, traded in drugs, kidnapped and murdered. There may be reason to believe that Panfilo Lacson has been sent to the Senate by drug money. There may be reason to believe that big-time drug syndicates have a plan to destabilize or control government, if they have not done so already.

If so, then that is a reason for us to investigate deeper, that is a reason for us to keep a close eye on the activities of Lacson, that is a reason for us to rouse the citizenry to vigilance. That is not a reason for us to demand that Lacson quit as senator, that is not a reason to demand that the Senate continue waiting for a witness who will testify against Lacson, that is not a reason for us to presume Lacson guilty until he can prove himself innocent.

Corpus is the accuser, the burden of proof lies with him. Without providing us the corpus (of evidence), we cannot be victors.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



to the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City.

The case was never tried by the courts, however. The private complainants, relatives of the victims, filed with the court affidavits of desistance followed by retractions by the principal witnesses for the prosecution. Star witness SP02 Eduardo de los Reyes said in his retraction that the 1995 incident that resulted in the death of the 11 victims was a legitimate shootout with known criminal elements. The court, therefore, had no choice but to dismiss the case.

"There is no more evidence to show that a crime has been committed and that the accused are probably guilty thereof," said the judge in his decision of March 29, 1999. "There is no more reason to hold the accused for trial and further expose them to an open and public accusation."

On June 6, 2001, or three months after the lapse of the two-year prescriptive period, state prosecutors filed new charges covering the same offenses subject of the original criminal cases. They said they were not reviving the original cases—and therefore the prescriptive period does not apply—but refiling new cases.

But the state prosecutors were careless. First, the CA noted that the old and new cases have the same docket numbers. Second, the new cases were not raffled off to the different courts but merely remanded to the same branch that had dismissed the earlier cases. "To top it all, the subject informations in the new criminal cases allege the same facts, refer to the same incident that transpired on May 18, 1995, point to the same victims and indict the same persons," said the appellate court.

Some lawyers have raised issues against the CA decision which Associate Justice Eriberto U.

Rosario Jr., the ponente, demolished point by point.

1. That it is contrary to the fundamental rule that in case of conflict between substantive law and procedural law, the substantive law shall prevail.

Rosario: There is no conflict. Article 190 of the Revised Penal Code states that the crime of murder prescribes in 20 years. This means that a person who commits murder can be charged at any time within 20 years from the discovery of the commission of the crime. But when a charge is filed and subsequently provisionally dismissed, then Section 8 of Rule 117 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure applies. It states that when a criminal case, the penalty of which is more than six years, is provisionally dismissed, such dismissal becomes permanent unless revived within two years.

2. Section 8 of Rule 117 is "applicable only if the accused has already been arraigned and entered his plea."

Rosario: The language of Section 8, Rule 117 is clear and unambiguous. It does not distinguish between provisional dismissal before or after arraignment. To say that it is applicable only after arraignment is to add a requirement that is not in the law; it is to read in the law something that is not there.

3. That the CA foreclosed the rights of the massacre victims, through their relatives, to be heard and to submit their evidence."

Rosario: The victims' relatives have executed affidavits of desistance stating that they are no longer interested in prosecuting the murder cases.

"The case before us has absolutely nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of any party," said Rosario. "All we were called upon to do was to interpret a novel provision in the law on criminal procedure."

Significantly, Justice Rosario noted in his decision that there are evidence that the case against Lacson "is one of persecution rather than prosecution." He cited the haste in the preliminary investigation and filing of the new cases, and the elevation of Lacson as a mere "accessory" in the original cases to "principal" in the new cases "to preclude any opportunity on his part to evade incarceration by seeking bail."

Ifs and buts

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



The same person who remonstrated with me said the only reason Corpus hasn't found it yet is that Lacson is more *mailap*, he did things far more subtly than Estrada. Well, that may make him more evil in our eyes, but that cannot make him more guilty in the law's eyes. If my saying so discourages people, I am sorry. Or in fact I am not sorry: I do mean to discourage them from this kind of reasoning, such as it might be called that.

I have two reasons for vigorously protesting the methods Corpus and civil society have employed so far. The first I've already argued in previous columns. You cannot end narco-politics by curtailing human rights, you cannot bring back morality and decency into national life by taking immoral and indecent shortcuts. The story of the ogre that never dies should be a sufficient cautionary tale in this respect. The secret of the ogre of course is that every prince that sets out to kill him does kill him—only to turn into the ogre himself. That is why he never dies. That is what we are looking at here: killing the ogre by becoming the ogre ourselves.

My sympathies in this respect are with Aquilino Pimentel who, whatever you say about him, has been very consistent in his advocacy of human rights. He had a point when he begged God in a Senate prayer to "show also Your servants in civil society that the search for Truth in a democratic government is necessarily structured by the rule of law that will not condemn anyone before it hears appropriate evidence." I've seen enough in 50 years of life of what happens to good people who try to achieve the best of intentions with the worst of methods. They end up mounting killing fields.

My other reason for objecting to this is just as vital, if not more so. It is that if you look hard enough at the origins of narco-politics, you will find them in the very methods we now want to employ to get rid of it. What is narco-politics really but a fancy name for police and military officials being free to hold government and the public hostage to their incontinent wants? The "narco" there is just the tip of the iceberg. The submerged part of the iceberg is that no one can touch the police and military establishments. That is what has given them the latitude and power to turn law enforcement into crime enforcement and the protection of the citizens into the oppression of the citizens.

How has this happened? Because we've always chosen to turn a blind eye to what they are—or have been since martial law, which are a gun aimed at the head of the citizen, ready to execute him summarily—in the name of expedience, in the name of a transient good. The police helped Cory Aquino crush coup attempts, and suddenly she forgot that they had been part of the monstrosity that put her husband to the grave. After that, Alfredo Lim could do nothing wrong. The military helped Aquino and Fidel Ramos scuttle a dictatorship and an insurgency, and suddenly they no longer needed to be rid of torturers and abusers. Overnight, they turned from custodians of martial law to guardians of democracy. The police and military helped Estrada and are helping Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo keep the Abu Sayyaf at bay and now Ms Macapagal complains that the investigation of AFP collusion with the Abu Sayyaf is demoralizing the troops. But surely people who have been de-moralized ought to be demoralized?

In all this, human rights have been the first victim, "salvaged" for being an obstacle to accomplishing an immediate good. An abusive police and military establishment is not the byproduct of this, it is its direct and inevitable consequence. Lacson et al. are not the byproduct of this, they are its direct and inevitable consequence.

We want to rid the world of them by the very process that made them?

Garbage threatens to drown Metro Manila

NE of the surest signs that the national government is losing its grip is the piling up of rubbish along the superhighways and in the streets of Metro Manila. The last time rubbish piled up into mountains was during the last few weeks of the Estrada administration when it was paralyzed by the impeachment trial and the People Power II demonstrations at Edsa.

On the surface, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, headed by Benjamin Abalos, and some Metro Manila mayors are squabbling over who is responsible for collecting the rubbish and the old argument about garbage recycling is still going on. Whoever is responsible for moving the trash, citizens like me are just guided by one evidence that the government, whether national or local, is in a state of paralysis in performing an essential municipal service.

The stockpiling of filth in Metro Manila is the responsibility of the national government, as it is of local government, because Manila is the capital city and the showcase of the nation, and allowing rubbish to scatter and suffocate its residents is a sure sign that the national government has priorities elsewhere.

During the impeachment trial, deposed President Estrada did very little except watch his political fortunes sink on TV. Municipalities, like San Mateo, were shutting their towns from being the dump of Metro Manila's filth. Today, without a political crisis, the Macapagal administration is unable to bear upon the MMDA and even the mayors, which are under the control of the Department of Interior and Local Government, to collect their waste. The reports are that even hospitals are dumping their toxic waste on open areas, citizens are forced to dump their right on the streets.

The Macapagal administration is admittedly squeezed between the flurry of congressional investigations creating political uncertainty and massaging the economy back to health. She is travelling to Japan to give the message that the economic growth in the Philippines is bouncing back to health. Her overseas trips are one way of

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



sending the message that economic recovery can take place independent of politics, and that she is a macro, rather than a micro, President with a strategic view of things.

Japan is struggling to avert recession, and there is little President Macapagal can do to make the Japanese interested in the Philippine economy. The President can order the police to crack down on drug-trafficking, street crimes or kidnappings in Metro Manila. She is doing this because the face of the entire country is what happens in Metro Manila—i.e., whether it is clean, traffic is moving, it is not saturated with ill-smelling, rotting waste, and whether citizens are safe in the streets and in their homes. But municipal services are not the priority of this government, and so it allows the MMDA and the local governments to pass blame to each other while doing nothing to collect rubbish.

The President can order Abalos to remove the garbage, if only to show how crucial are the municipal services to the image of the national government, but she is not breathing down on the neck of Abalos because she wants to impress us that she is a "macro manager" and micro management is beneath the dignity and not worthy of the sustained attention of the President of the Republic.

During her first weeks in office, the MMDA saw to it that the garbage piles were removed and leveled, and this left the impression that the new national government was acting to deliver basic municipal services. Today, we may well be buried under garbage piles or diseases may break out of them, but there's no sense of urgency to attack this "micro" problem.

By the time the President returns from her visit

to Japan, she will find that C-5 will be covered by garbage bags. Investors, which the President is seeking to attract, will not put money here just on the basis of the prospects of profitability. They are also considering the amenities and the quality of life of host countries. The amenities include the collection of garbage, the short trip from the international airport to city center or their hotels is pleasant and safe, and the city is clean. Cities like Bangkok, which was a traffic nightmare before the completion of the elevated train and skyways, attracts tourists because they are clean, public transport moves people quickly and the streets are clean.

All the macro-policy trajectories of the President are wasted effort to attract foreign investment, let alone tourists to this city if it is filthy and ready to swallow citizens and visitors into the bosom of decaying waste.

Abalos had a promising start at the MMDA. He was able to wipe out the backlog of garbage that piled up during the dying days of the Estrada administration. Today, under a government that prides itself in methodical and systematic national management, Abalos has lost inertia. He is caught in a buck-passing squabble with Mayor JV Ejercito of San Juan, and the search for garbage dumps outside the Metro area has seemed to have bogged down.

President Macapagal may have distanced herself from the Senate investigation into allegations against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The economy is growing—albeit very slightly. Growth is taking place despite the turbulent politics, and the macro-management strategy seems to be working in these areas. But the BW-ASW business confidence index shows that business confidence last month dropped to its lowest level for the year, despite the more optimistic outlook for economic expansion.

When businessmen, both foreign and domestic, and the public see garbage spreading out all over the Metro area, they can't help but lose confidence in the priorities of the national government and its capacity to prod municipalities and the MMDA to collect their garbage before a bubonic plague breaks out.

Young politicians

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



1,000 members in celebration of its 10th year. This year's Congress will serve not just to bring the members together in fellowship, but also to provide training and orientation to young legislators on important issues of local governance, especially local autonomy.

The NMYL will also honor distinguished "alumni," who were among the founders of the NMYL, who have since moved on to national office or joined the Cabinet. Among them are Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, the first president of the NMYL; and Macapagal Cabinet members Hernani Braganza and Mike Defensor.

"We want to bring back the kind of bonding and fellowship that the first batch of members enjoyed," says Mary Ann Duran Dino, a founding member of NMYL and former councilor of Victorias City in Negros Occidental, who is helping organize this year's Congress. Following on the heels of Edsa II and "III," there certainly will be more than enough matters to talk about seriously in the NMYL Congress.

TODAY'S generation of young politicians, says Ryan Culima, a councilor from Butuan City, are well prepared for the demands of holding office. "On the whole, we're more responsive and open-minded. Many of us are averse to using the Internet as a source of information on new legislation, for instance."

What the NMYL seeks to promote among its members, Culima adds, is "the politics of performance." Thus a large part of their activities revolves around capacity-building, giving young legislators the skills they need to survive in the political arena as well as to enjoy "a confidence level that will

enable them to work with older and wiser colleagues."

While senior politicians "have a soft spot" for younger colleagues who seem willing to learn the ropes from them, Culima concedes that youthful rashness and impetuosity can turn off many seniors.

"Activism needs to be tempered with an appreciation of political processes," adds Pangilinan, who had his initial exposure to politics as a Quezon City councilor just fresh from college. "You will be treated in the manner that you deserve," he observes. "What you learn after a while is that you just have to choose your battles."

YOUNG politicians agree that their youth helps them win not just the votes, but also the loyalty and energy of young voters.

Sol Mutia, a former councilor who now works for the Office of Muslim Affairs, enthuses about "the kind of support young voters are willing to give you. Once they feel that you sincerely believe in their issues, they will not only vote for you, they will campaign for you and volunteer their free time."

But Culima also notes that voters as a whole get a good deal from young politicians, too. "The trend in local governments is that even major committees are now handled by young legislators. I guess we just tend to be more aggressive and hardworking."

Perhaps 10 years is still too short a time to measure the impact of a generation of politicians who came on the scene after more than a decade of a vacuum in leadership, both nationally and locally. But it should have been enough time for learning the ropes, and perhaps the nation is only now reaping the results of the opening of democratic space after Edsa. What we have to ask, though, is if the learnings have served to improve the quality and values of our politics through these young politicians. Or if they have only learned how to be as bad as those who came before them.

Still, we must be grateful the NMYL exists at all, pushing the ideals that fired their entry into politics in the first place.

orange.' Translated, 'your balls are orange,' when they are actually selling hard boiled eggs and Royal Tru-Orange...I was thinking of something and I looked down. Then suddenly my office mate asked in Waray, 'Natamod ka man?' I was embarrassed because *tamod* in Tagalog is semen."

Most of the examples given are all sexual in nature and I must consult a linguist one day to find out why the anatomical and sexual terms are the ones that cause confusion and laughter when we cross from one language to another. Sometimes the way it is pronounced that makes the difference. Pepe Alcantara, from Ilocos, eager to please the Batangueño family of his girlfriend studied a Tagalog phrase for use at his future father-in-law's birthday party. When he arrived he greeted them with a hearty *maligayang bati* but emphasized the wrong syllable. After an embarrassed silence broken by hysterical laughter someone explained that he had just turned the "best wishes" into "happy masturbation." This surely endeared him to his in-laws.

Lito Yabut e-mailed asking for the famous Kapampangan translation for, "I caught the ball under the bridge." At this point I should stop lest the INQUIRER readers' advocate be swamped with complaints on indecency in my columns. Mr. Yabut contributed other words that do not translate well. "In Quezon playing is *naglalanti*, and drunk is *burat*." He even gave a couple of names like the little-known Mr. Popular C. Catanyag and the introverted Reuben Macapagal of Quezon City. An officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue is called Sergio Buaya?

Someone should moderate a website on linguistic confusion if only to stress that in a country divided by many languages we need one national language to be understood or misunderstood in.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

If truth be told

TRUTH about police involvement in the Philippines' multi-billion-peso drug trade is a fearsome baby still trying to be born in a Senate investigation but already there's an awful lot of bath water to be thrown out on all sides.

To begin with, despite wide public sympathy, Col. Victor Corpus as the truth's voluntary midwife has yet to convince us of his case. As far as the public eye is concerned, lack of evidence on Lacson's foreign bank accounts and that initial embarrassing error on Kim Wong's photo have yet to be neutralized by his vintage '70s rhetoric, the theatrics of Angelo Mawanay and the sensational but unproven testimony of Mary "Rosebud" Ong. As it stands, Ong herself now has a lot of explaining to do about past and present activities attributed to her by former Narcom chief Reynaldo Acop.

This is not to say that Acop and his boys do not have a lot of explaining to do themselves. If their claims about Ong's credit card racket, illegal gambling and string of *estafa* cases on top of drug trading are true, they have yet to convince us of the wisdom of taking her into the Narcom in the first place. Calling her "foxy, wily, and incidentally, beautiful" is a clever sound bite but far from sufficient to explain the risk and the cold-blooded exploitation of her person that came with taking on Mary Ong.

Corollary to this would be an explanation of why, knowing that they were lovers, Acop took Supt. John Campos' word on his live-in partner's "reliability." It would also help public judgment on Campos' own reliability to know what kind of a policeman would break a cardinal rule of prudence by continuing to sleep with his undercover agent. The verbal swipe Campos took at her in Senate premises only lent credence to her claims about his morals and manners.

Given the Senate's limitations in getting to the bottom of claims and counter-claims, there also remains much bath water to be thrown out by the giant egos and blind spots in its chambers. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, its resident know-it-all on all matters military, has for one been a tad tiresome in his insistence on linking Corpus' unconventional behavior to another coup plot-in-the-making in AFP premises.

As well, Mawanay may be a doubtful witness but there was no call for the mighty senators to detain him for three days, giving him and his motor-mouth lawyer an excuse to leap back into the front-pages. Springing Mawanay from detention, unjust though it was, in turn indicated lack of respect for procedure in Corpus' Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Most subtly worrisome however is a mindset currently circulating in "civil society" now blooming into a "Lacson Resign" movement. The premise of this mindset is that what happened to former President Joseph Estrada can and should happen to his trusted ally Sen. Panfilo Lacson. There are good reasons to distrust Lacson but Copa leaders should perhaps recall that a critical mass of hard evidence on Estrada came before warm bodies massed at Edsa to good account.

There is an instinct in the populi perfectly capable of homing in on the truth without artificial pressure. Call it popular intuition, call it a talent for reading body language beyond words spoken in formal and legalistic investigations. The beauty of people power is precisely that it has thus far known when enough is enough, needing neither coaxing nor hectoring to do what needs to be done.

Opinions phoned into talk shows indicate that the weighing is still in process. More people believe star witness Rosebud but there remain a respectable number of doubters with valid questions. The same goes for Corpus, Lacson, and all the rest of the dramatis personae called in for their respective 15 minutes of fame by this controversy.

Shouting for Lacson to resign now would not only be attempting to preempt a fresh challenge to Senate and judiciary to restore public confidence. Given his 11 million votes, it would also be trying to jump the gun on democratic history yet unfolding in our unequal society. A better path seems to be a civil society campaign for the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case and public attendance if and when it returns to the lower courts.

All things being equal, prosecution of this case could shed valuable light on Lacson's interlocking activities in the PAOCTF. A larger picture may also just help win over more hearts-and-minds from the most serious fallacy still in wide circulation despite our country's sad experience of men in uniform—that might is right.

THEY SAID

Manufactured report

"But I have to give it to him, he is good at lying by attributing to me the report that he himself has manufactured."

—Col. Mario Chan on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claim that a report authored by Chan found Mary Ong as a witness without credibility

Not easy

"It is not easy to testify against men protected by their badge as law enforcers."

—Sr. Mary John Mananzan who supports Mary Ong

Nonsense

"Shotgun allegations are nonsense."

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez daring C/Supt. Reynaldo Acop to substantiate his allegations that drug syndicates have penetrated government agencies like the DOJ

We judge her

"No matter what the Americans say, we are the ones judging her."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo on alleged US Customs report stating Mary Ong is not a credible witness

Taking umbrage

"It's not funny, not even amusing. It's disrespectful."

—Nelson Pangilinan, chief of Tarlac Aeta Association on calling Mt. Pinatubo, Mt. Pinatulo

Cruelty and the senator

"Cruelty is a senator getting away with murder."

—Lawyer Arno Sanidad on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's statement about the cruelty of his accusers

Battlefield reality

"To die in the battlefield is an honorable death. That's an accepted fact among us soldiers."

—Capt. Ruben Guinolbay

Enough to fear

"We have enough to fear because of the seeming permanency of drugs, *jueteng* and prostitution in our midst. But let us not fear, let us be courageous, hopeful and angry."

—Fr. Oliver Mendoza calling on the youth to be very angry at the proliferation of the three vicious evils

IN 1988, in the first local elections after the Edsa Revolt, a new kind of candidate jumped into the crazy three-ring circus of local politics. The candidate was young, below 35 years old, and for the most part had honed his or her political experience in the arena of activism, street protests and NGO work. If not actively engaged in the political struggles of the era, the candidate would have been at least deeply influenced by the spirit of the post-Ninoy assassination years. For this was when the doors of repression were flung open, inviting in an earnest questioning of even the most basic assumptions about democracy, development and social equality.

The young politicians would be the heirs of the democratic space that Edsa had opened up, the recipients of a largesse denied the generation before them. Fourteen years of martial law had held down the emergence of new and younger politicians, at least those who refused to kowtow to the dictatorship. Marcos was wary of encouraging the ambitions of potential rivals, unless they were family. Local leaders were only too willing to play along with the status quo, their perks and power preserved for as long as the Marcoses remained in power. But after Edsa, a new generation of politicians was suddenly able to assert their ambitions, and in claiming their offices, they sought not just to inherit the mantle of leadership, but to change the very nature of the political establishment they had become part of.

IT was harder than they thought, and it still is. But one lesson the young politicians have learned since is that one can't do it alone. If one wants to do more than simply survive in the political arena, and to usher in meaningful change wherever one is, one would need the help and company of like-minded friends, as well as the skills to maneuver through the mine-strewn fields of politics.

This was the reason for the establishment of the National Movement of Young Legislators or NMYL, which gathers town and city councilors as well as provincial board members from around the country who are all young (35 years and below) and, perhaps, idealistic.

Today and tomorrow, the NMYL gathers over

Lingering linguistic oddities

WHILE Lina Diaz de Rivera of the UP College of Education was not amused by my columns last week—*wala kang maisulat na?*—e-mail response was quite the opposite. Lina predicted a bashing from people who would criticize me for referring to the Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Ilocano and Visayan languages as "dialects." Nowhere in the column did I use the bad word "dialect" and in an earlier column I actually stressed that Kapampangan was a language, not a dialect. Nobody raised the issue of dialects and languages but one reader requested me to clear up the confusion between Filipino and Pilipino. Now that is worth one column in itself—maybe next August during Linggo ng Wika.

The column on rural food triggered a lot of memories from people away from home, or at least outside "imperial Manila." Dr. Mike Galang asked why I did not include "Cubang Aso" to my list of delicacies. He said, "...it is not served on the dining table but it is eaten with bare hands in the back of the house in full secrecy. Manila rum goes well with cubang aso." Another reader, Joven Barriuan, from Florida, was struck by the food I mentioned and remembered the food of his childhood:

"I come from the northern province of Cagayan and we do have our share of weird but delicious fare. Foremost is the *lurrung*, a smelly but heavenly tasting fish that can only be found in the Cagayan river...The *assimaua*, or beetle, like your *kamaru*, is deep fried, crispy on the outside and creamy on the inside. *Nuang* or carabao meat is hung outside for a couple of days until maggots are present. It is then cleaned and prepared with *balatung* or *mongo*. You are right, food and memories go together. Thinking of these Ybanag staples bring me back to the carefree days of my youth...thank you for the memories, albeit brief, that your column has evoked. It has transported me in time and made me a young boy again."

Other readers contributed more amusing sto-

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



ries regarding their own crossing of linguistic barriers. Elsie Golfo visiting friends in Pittsburgh used her homegrown Spanish on an Argentinean toddler. "...I talked to the little girl in Spanish and she responded well to me. Then, while helping to get her ready for bed, I asked her *quieres tu tsupon?*" (Would you like your pacifier?). Her parents both burst out laughing and said, I just invited their darling daughter to have oral sex. The correct word is *tsupete* (in Argentina) they said. I think *tsupon* is the right word in Mexico and Puerto Rico." Speaking of oral sex, remember the uproar about dark chocolate cookies sold in Spain as "Filipinos"? These cookies were quite apt being dark on the outside and white on the inside. Why complain about "Filipinos" when our children are enjoying lollipops called "Chupa chups"? Isn't this the vulgar Pilipino word or colloquialism for oral sex? We see some things and are blind to others.

Romeo Francisco related his days in Tacloban, "...I longed for *sinigang na baboy*. I know that my mother used to include *sili* in the *sinigang* so I went to the market myself and bought everything, and I asked for *siling malaki* for my *sinigang*. To my surprise, the ladies laughed at me. I didn't mind. When I reached the office, I asked my office mate why when I asked for a big *sili*, everybody laughed. They told me that *sili* in Waray is my private part.

"In my travels from Tacloban to Ormoc City, we used to have a stopover halfway on our trip and we have to buy something to eat. Vendors will be shouting, selling snacks 'Itlog mo Noy

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PMA training needs reform

I PROBABLY write on behalf of many overseas Filipinos like me when I say that the training of our military officers at the Philippine Military Academy needs urgent reforms, particularly to emphasize the importance of telling the truth, accepting command responsibility and leading an incorruptible and drug-free life.

If the Armed Forces of the Philippines which is headed by PMA graduates cannot crush the Abu Sayyaf, tell the truth and become incorruptible, what kind of training is conducted at the PMA?

Probably taxpayers' money is just wasted in the way the PMA is training our officers.

If the AFP cannot crush the Abu Sayyaf, how can it stop a foreign invasion?—OSCAR R. LAN-DICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com

Let the public buy into Maynilad

LAST week, the MWSS board of trustees agreed to amend the 1997 Concession Agreement between Maynilad Water Services Inc. and MWSS in order to accommodate Maynilad's petition for a P4.78 per cubic meter water rates increase.

Maynilad claims that it has incurred some P2.7 billion in foreign exchange losses due to its inherited loans. Thus, it has been asking for an accelerated Extraordinary Price Adjustment, a mechanism that would allow Maynilad to recover its losses in a shorter period.

The 1997 Concession Agreement stipulates that the recovery of Maynilad's losses should be spread out over the remaining life of the contract (or 22 years). But what Maynilad wants to do is to recover 95 percent of its forex losses in 16 months, while the remaining 5 percent will be collected in 22 years. Maynilad proposes a one-time adjustment of P4.78 per cubic meter

starting Sept. 1, 2001 until Dec. 31, 2002, while the rest of the losses will be recovered over the remaining life of the contract.

But for Maynilad's petition to be approved, the concession agreement must first be amended, then affirmed by the Department of Finance. The final amended contract is expected within the next few days. Subsequently, the MWSS would verify the figures of the increase having already approved in principle Maynilad's proposal.

We of the Freedom from Debt Coalition strongly denounce the MWSS board's decision to amend the contract and approve in principle Maynilad's petition for a water rates increase.

1. By allowing Maynilad to increase water rates, government is virtually bailing out the Lopezes. The approval of the accelerated EPA and the postponement of its service obligations makes Maynilad bankable and spares Benpres from delivering

on its loan guarantee to Maynilad.

2. We find the bailout of Maynilad totally unacceptable because it accords Maynilad special treatment and absolves the water company of charges of inefficiency and poor management. Truth is, Maynilad has been performing miserably in its obligations. Under the original contract, Maynilad was supposed to have reduced its non-revenue water (NRW) by 37.1 percent in 2001. But end-year 2000 figures show that Maynilad's actual NRW, in fact, increased to 67 percent.

3. The bailout sets a precedent for the MWSS to grant similar concessions to Manila Water, and additional concessions to Maynilad in the future.

4. We are dismayed that the MWSS officials have chosen to adopt Maynilad's proposal at the expense of a heavier burden on the consumers. Why does the Macapagal administration expect con-

sumers to save the day for Maynilad? Why should consumers be made to pay more when they could not even expect any improvement in Maynilad's services?

Overall, we think that the proposal for a water rates increase is unjust, unreasonable and disadvantageous to the consumers.

We call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not to approve Maynilad's proposal. We demand that Maynilad be made to abide by the provisions of the original concession agreement. Maynilad's recovery of forex losses should not be accelerated, but should be over the life of the contract—just as it is stipulated in the original agreement.

We urge President Macapagal to consider a workable and reasonable solution that would address the problems in the water sector without necessarily raising tariffs and burdening the consumers. Specifically, we put forward our proposal

for a consumer buy-in, or what we call co-privatization.

Instead of being burdened with a rate hike, consumers should be given the opportunity to put in equity into Maynilad and own share in the company. This would give consumers greater access to information on how Maynilad is being managed and a greater say in how Maynilad is being run. At the same time, Maynilad would be able to obtain the cash it needs for its capital expenses and operations.

A consumer buy-in makes an accelerated EPA unnecessary. We challenge the Macapagal administration to take up this option, instead of simply giving Maynilad an easy way out of a mess for which it is largely to blame.—MATET DIOKNO-PASCUAL, FDC president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matigla St., Central District, QC

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED WHY OUR COUNTRY CAN'T KEEP MOVING FORWARD, CONSIDER THE SYJUCO CASE VS. COSMOS.

In a recent meeting with a governor of the Philippine Stock Exchange, a prospective foreign investor, informed of complications arising from the case filed by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco against publicly-listed Cosmos Bottling Corp., remarked "Well, that's why nothing works in your country!"

There are, of course, other factors holding back our country from moving forward more firmly to economic recovery. But one classic example of such obstacles is the Syjuco case vs. Cosmos.

Consider Cosmos.

- Cosmos is the first and oldest bottler of softdrinks in the country, established in 1918 as the Manila Aerated Water Company.
- Its home-grown brands, such as Sarsi and Pop Cola, have always represented value for the consumer, and been considered the pride of many Filipinos here and abroad.
- Acquired by RFM in 1989, Cosmos was nurtured to become a truly Filipino icon, a symbol of what can be achieved by the best in the Filipino. Its "Bagong Tunog" and "Angat sa Iba" and "Tama ang Timpla" campaigns have won the hearts of everyone.
- Under RFM, Cosmos developed into a highly-skilled and competitive player in the Philippine softdrink market. It has now climbed to the No. 2 rank in a market dominated by international brands, and has won the respect of many investors for its consistently strong financial and operating performance.
- As Cosmos now prepares for its next stage of growth under San Miguel Corporation, however, an obstacle has been thrown on its way in the form of the Syjuco case vs. Cosmos.

Consider the Case.

- The case filed by Mr. Syjuco, stripped down to its basic essentials, seeks to rescind an agreement he entered into in late 1996 selling his small softdrinks business to Cosmos for P1.168 billion. Five years after the deal, he is now telling the Court he wants his business back, and will return the money Cosmos paid him.
- To justify rescinding the agreement, Mr. Syjuco is claiming material breach by Cosmos of two (2) items in the agreement, namely that Cosmos still owes him some P146 million in miscellaneous obligations, and that Cosmos did not pay the right amount of taxes for him, which he estimates to be P261 million. Both these claims have no basis.
- On the miscellaneous items, the original claim of Mr. Syjuco during the negotiations was P88.6 million. Cosmos paid him P75.5 million, and later found the rest of the claims fraudulent, padded or simply invalid. To resolve the matter once and for all, SGV was brought in as an external auditor and the March 6, 1997 final report shows that Cosmos had overpaid Mr. Syjuco P9.8 million for the miscellaneous items. This was signed by the President of the Syjuco companies. Mr. Syjuco has not returned the money to date.
- On the tax obligation, Mr. Syjuco claims that a foreign firm was used to save taxes on the transaction. No foreign firm whatsoever was used. The BIR has issued a ruling dated March 3, 1998 allowing the structure of the transaction, and subsequently Cosmos paid the proper capital gains tax and documentary stamp tax arising from the transaction.
- As there is no real basis for his claims, one can only wonder what the real motive of Mr. Syjuco is in filing such a case after five long years.

Consider the Motive.

- The case filed by Mr. Syjuco is only the latest in a long series of harassment moves he has undertaken against Cosmos. In 1998, he asked the SEC and PSE to investigate RFM and its subsidiaries. In 1998 and 1999, using his position as a Congressman, he filed House Resolutions to conduct an investigation of RFM and Cosmos. Nothing came out of these attempts.
- Mr. Syjuco does not have a record of showing great concern about the payment of taxes. In the 7 years from 1990-1996 that he owned the Jaz/RC Cola business, his companies' reflected only a total of P5.5 million in income tax. In the first year alone (1997) that the same business was under Cosmos management, Cosmos paid P35.5 million in income tax.
- Indeed, what Mr. Syjuco is singularly and popularly known for is the harassment case he filed against now Senator Joker P. Arroyo. Having been turned down by Makati voters in his various attempts to secure a position of power and authority in that city, he sought to frame up Senator Arroyo in the infamous Mile-Long property case. Again, he did not succeed.
- Today, outside of the case he has filed at the Regional Trial Court, Mr. Syjuco has felt compelled to write letters again to the PSE, the SEC and other authorities urging an investigation of RFM and Cosmos, as if he had no confidence in his case alone.
- Most telling of his motives, however, is Mr. Syjuco's own admission that he started doing all these again only after he learned of the possibility of a P15 billion deal for the sale of Cosmos to San Miguel Corporation.

Consider what you can do.

- If you want to keep this country moving forward against the likes of Mr. Syjuco, there are many things you can do.
- If you are a minority shareholder of Cosmos, or a small investor in the Philippine capital market, step forward and let your views be known by the PSE and SEC.
- If you are in the legal or accounting profession, take the time to review the case documents and explain to your family and friends what the real score is.
- If you are in government, in the House of Representatives or in other regulatory agencies, recall and study the official records of Mr. Syjuco vis-a-vis his actuations.
- If you are in media or the journalistic profession, double-check the information you receive about this issue to ensure you have the real facts before reporting them.
- If you are an ordinary citizen, look for someone who has known Mr. Syjuco in the past, and get to know more about the man and his motive. Then make your own judgement.

LET'S MAKE IT WORK !

LET'S KEEP OUR COUNTRY MOVING FORWARD!

- Statement Issued by Cosmos Bottling Corporation

Much ado over unsustainable economic growth

I WAS born an optimist. Every piece of good news about the economy makes me feel good. Who gets the credit does not matter. There are matters that are beyond partisanship and our big dream for growth and prosperity is a collective thing.

The news from Malacañang that the country posted a 3.3 percent second-quarter growth rate, a "higher-than-expected performance" as the press statements claimed, should have lifted and buoyed our collective spirit. The market should have reacted with a bullish run. The pundits and the economists should have written the proper tributes. But there was neither a positive market reaction to the good news nor tributes from the pundits. Instead of a bang, we only heard sighs and whimpers.

The reason is clear: the 3.3 percent GDP growth rate is not, using an economic term, "sustainable." For now, the enthusiasm should be reined in.

The second quarter growth was spurred by the rise in personal consumption, as the National Economic Development Authority had correctly put it. Growth, to be sustainable and significant, has to be investment-driven, not a one-time contribution such as personal consumption. What if the consumers merely opted to sink their plastic cards deeper into debt?

Domestic investments remain lethargic, growing at less than one percent for the last year.

But what is more significant is that the GDP growth rate has not been felt and translated into concrete economic gains. What good, after all, would rise in indices do, if these adjusted figures do not improve the lives of Filipinos.

Poverty remains at 40 percent. Prices of basic commodities are high. Malnutrition has been wasting the lives of close to 20 million children. Our senior citizens mostly live Third World lives—nasty, cold and brutish.

The country continues to experience high unemployment—a phenomenon called "jobless growth." With an unemployment figure of 13.3 percent, almost 4.5 million Filipinos are without jobs. A double-digit unemployment figure and the Malacañang enthusiasm surely cannot be reconciled.

Filipinos ignore the much-ballyhooed growth rate because they do not feel it—or see it in their lives.

Consequently, many sectors doubt these growth figures since "other indicators are not corroborating the strength in GDP numbers." As a result, the stock market and Phisix, instead of reacting positively to the so-called "good news," plunged to a ten-month low since the news came out, with the Phisix losing nearly 20 points.

President Macapagal's overeager statements in heralding our recent GDP growth rate as an indication of her administration's success betrays the simple truth. We are not over the hump. We are, in fact, now climbing a steeper one. The chest-beating from Malacañang is premature. Rather than push Filipinos into hard work and austerity, the misplaced enthusiasm gives them a false sense of security.

In real terms, again borrowing a term from the economists, there was only much ado over nothing.—EDGARDO J. ANGARA, senator, Senate, Rm. 504 GSIS Building, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Clarifying the Malinowski affair

THE MALINOWSKI incident should be clarified. The Visiting Forces Agreement calls for joint exercises—and all matters pertaining to such exercises are decided by the Philippine government. If in the course of the exercises the US air officers decide to go on a unilateral maneuver to Cebu, they cannot do so without the permission of the Philippine government. Otherwise US forces can go anywhere, any time and virtually convert the entire nation into a US base—which is certainly not the intent of the VFA. Joint exercises were agreed upon to benefit both American and Filipino military men and officers.

However, there exists a distinction between unilateral activities and unilateral exercises. When American planes enter the country to participate in the exercises, that is a unilateral activity. When a US naval vessel departs for home, that is a unilateral activity, and when the US forces engage in rest and recreation, that is a unilateral activity which will be decided tactically by the US command.

Although Malinowski was highly emotional when he talked to Elmer Cato over the phone, he cooled down after explanations were given him. To prevent similar incidents, the Philippine government is drafting implementing rules and regulations that would govern future joint exercises where the decisions on operations are to be made by the Philippine government pursuant to the VFA agreement.—TEOFISTO GUINGONA JR., vice president and foreign secretary, Republic of the Philippines

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Senate upholds right of US POWs to sue Japan firms

WASHINGTON—The Senate affirmed Monday that American prisoners of war should have the right to sue Japanese companies that used them as slave labor during World War II.

The 58-34 Senate vote came two days after Secretary of State Colin Powell, at San Francisco ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the treaty that officially ended the war, said that under that treaty Japan was not required to compensate American prisoners.

Victims of Japanese forced labor have gone to court in California and other states seeking compensation from leading Japanese companies, including Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui & Co., for the inhumane treatment they experienced during the war.

But the departments of State and Justice have opposed those lawsuits, filing legal briefs stating that under the 1951 peace treaty the allied powers expressly waived any rights to reparations from Japan.

"The treaty dealt with this matter 50 years ago," Powell told reporters at Saturday's anniversary event. "It's a position we have to defend."

But the Senate measure—introduced as an amendment to a \$41-billion spending bill for the Commerce, Justice and State departments—would bar any funds to State and Justice to oppose a civil action by a World War II POW against a Japanese person or corporation.



POWELL: Overturned

"Should our government be stopping a private citizen from seeking his or her day in court for a grievance?" asked Sen. Bob Smith, cosponsor of the amendment with Sen. Tom Harkin. "I don't think so. I think it's wrong and I'm frankly ashamed that it's happening."

"It's a matter of the companies accepting their responsibility for depriving us of food, of medical care and not paying us our wages during those horrible years," said 82-year-old former POW Lester Tenney of La Jolla, California, in a statement he issued after the San Francisco ceremony.

Backers of the amendment argued that the Japanese foreign minister, in a 1951 letter that was only recently made public, agreed that claims against private Japanese citizens and corporations would be permissible under the treaty.

But Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who was seriously wounded while fighting for the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regiment in Europe, sided with the administration's view that it would be a mistake to ignore treaty obligations. He said it would have "very serious consequences for United States-Japan relations and sadly would sow doubt about America's word among other allies."

Of the 36,000 American servicemen captured by Japan during the war, only about 5,300 are still living. Some, like Tenney, were subjected to the Bataan death march in the Philippines and forced to work for Japanese companies in mines and factories without pay, adequate food or medical care.

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TOYOTA

Court orders Australia gov't to accept Afghan asylum-seekers

MELBOURNE—An Australian court yesterday ordered the government to accept hundreds of mainly Afghan asylum seekers, dealing a major blow to Canberra's bid to close its doors to illegal immigrants.

The 433 mainly Afghan illegal immigrants from the Norwegian cargo ship Tampa, together with another 237 boat people found on another vessel, were steaming toward Papua New Guinea on an Australian Navy vessel after a two-week ordeal at sea.

The government immediately said it would appeal the court ruling which threw a spanner into a plan to send the unwanted asylum seekers to New Zealand and the tiny Pacific state of Nauru, using Papua New Guinea as a staging post.

"We do intend to appeal," said a spokes-

person for Attorney General Daryl Williams.

The court found the government had detained the Tampa boat people illegally off Australia's Indian Ocean outpost of Christmas Island when crack SAS troops boarded the ship Aug. 29 to stop the asylum seekers from swimming ashore.

"The orders of the court will require that the respondent release the rescuees on to the mainland of Australia," said Judge Tony North, adding it was "an ancient power of the court" to protect people against detention without lawful authority.

The court gave the government until Friday to comply with its ruling.

The court action was brought by a civil liberties group.

"It is really a very upsetting issue, any-

thing to do with the way refugees are being treated in this country," said David Shaw, the group's solicitor.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) and Australia's Greens applauded the court and said they hoped it would bring speedy relief for the asylum seekers, rescued by the Tampa from a sinking Indonesian ferry on Aug. 26.

The Australian government has faced down international outrage over the eight-day standoff that blew up with its refusal to take the Tampa rescuees but has won broad public support at home for its determination to halt people smuggling.

Prime Minister John Howard, who faces a tough end of year election, was in the United States for an official visit and not available for immediate comment.

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said the asylum seekers would remain on board the Navy troop carrier HMAS Manoora heading toward Papua New Guinea pending the government's appeal.

Cash-strapped Nauru, which on Monday struck a US\$10.2-million deal with Australia to swap 283 of the Tampa asylum seekers, and 237 from the second vessel, for diesel and other incentives, said it was still expecting its guests.

Another 150 of the Tampa's human cargo were due to be sent to New Zealand.

Under an earlier court agreement the asylum seekers can voluntarily leave the Manoora, once it reaches Papua New Guinea, to be flown to Nauru or New Zealand, but they cannot be forcibly removed from the ship.

Reuters



THE US Marines' Futenma Base, seen just behind the residential area of Ginowan in Okinawa, Japan, in this Sept. 1996 file photo. AFP

SULIT DAPAT ANG IYONG PAGHIHIRAP SA TRABAHO.



US sergeant denies raping Okinawa woman

NAHA, Japan—A US airman accused of raping a woman in a Japanese parking lot pleaded not guilty yesterday, two months after the incident that threatened to fray the strategic alliance between the two nations.

US Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24, was charged with raping the woman in June in a case that revived resentment toward US forces on southern Okinawa island, reluctant host to the bulk of the US military in Japan.

"I want to say that we had sex but it was consensual," the tall, shaven-headed Woodland, wearing a double-breasted beige suit and beach sandals, told the court in a calm voice.

"I did not rape her," said Woodland, who was brought into court with his wrists tied.

A US delay of several days in handing over Woodland to Japanese police had added to the ire of local residents.

The prosecution charged that Woodland raped the woman on the hood of a car in a shopping center parking lot at around 2 a.m. on June 29 as she pounded on the vehicle shouting: "No, no."

"I cannot forgive the suspect. I am also angry at the fact that he says it was consensual sex," prosecutors quoted the 24-year-old woman as telling them.

"I don't need compensation or any other payments, I just don't want him ever to appear in front of me again," she said.

Woodland's lawyer, Tsuyoshi Arakaki, however, told the district court in Naha, Okinawa's capital, that the woman had consented to have sex and no violence was involved.

Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Rare coral reefs

BANGKOK—The world's coral reefs are much rarer than previously thought, according to a United Nations survey released Thursday which urges better conservation for the delicate ecosystems. The UN Environmental Program study found that although coral reefs are found in 101 countries and territories, they occupy less than one tenth of one percent of the oceans. "The findings give new urgency to protect and conserve these important, valuable and seductively beautiful habitats which are under increasing threat from activities such as dynamite fishing, pollution, and climate change," it said.

AFP

Mad cow case jolts Japan

TOKYO—Japan yesterday woke up to news it could be facing an outbreak of mad cow disease only months after the government downplayed warnings that the nation's cattle were in a high-risk category. Ministry officials said chances of a serious outbreak in Japan were low after news that a five-year old cow had tested positive in Asia's first known case of the brain-wasting disease also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). But the nation's food and agriculture industry was bracing for a possible crisis as some experts warned that the disease, whose human variant is thought to have killed more than 100 people in Britain, could be more widespread.

Reuters

Israel tanks ring Jenin

JENIN, West Bank—Israeli tanks rolled up to the edges of the Palestinian-ruled city of Jenin in the West Bank yesterday in what the Army called an encirclement designed to block more suicide bombers from reaching Israel. Israeli fire seriously wounded at least four Palestinians during the operation, carried out under the cover of darkness, Jenin hospital officials said. In separate fighting, Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli paramilitary border policemen who were on sentry duty at a base not far from the West Bank town of Tulkarm, an Israeli ambulance service official said.

Reuters

OAS summit opens

LIMA—The Organization of American States' two-day summit meeting opened here Monday with a call for foreign ministers from 34 member nations to adopt a charter making democracy the rule across the Americas. The proposed democracy charter would "warn those who try to disrupt the constitutional order that they will encounter a community of American nations united in collective action to make them respect the institution of democracy," OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria said.

AFP

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Fujimori government accused of engaging in forced sterilizations

LIMA—A government commission in Peru will investigate charges the government of ex-president Alberto Fujimori engaged in forced sterilization of men and women, resulting in 30 deaths, Health Minister Luis Solari said Monday.

The special commission is charged with uncovering who ordered the tubal ligations and vasectomies, many of which were performed without patients' knowledge or consent by public health employees between 1996 and 1998, Solari said. Most of those sterilized were indigenous women in rural areas.

The General Women's Movement, a private group, said 30 women died and 213 others were injured as a result of the forced sterilizations.

The group, along with the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights, has compiled documents and testimony to support the charge that Fujimori's government engaged in a widespread campaign of illegal sterilizations as a means of birth control.

The committee, citing government figures, said 81,791 women and 630,000 men were sterilized in 1996, and 114,500 women and 11,400 men in 1997.

Of these, many were deceived into being sterilized or had the operations performed without the required 72-hour waiting period as part of Fujimori's initiative to reduce population growth in Peru, the committee said.

"The family planning programs were positive, and the problem is the Fujimori government tied them solely to definitive methods of contraception," said Pilar Aguilar, the committee's coordinator in Peru.

In a video produced by the committee, several women ranging in age from 20 to 30 describe how the sterilization campaign worked.

One woman said a public health official persuaded her to be sterilized by telling her: "You have many children and your husband is a drunk, why are you going to make more children?"

Another indig-



FUJIMORI

enous woman, speaking through a translator, said: "I do not know what to do, I've even thought I should kill myself, because my husband no longer wants me sexually."

A third said she was threatened with arrest if she refused sterilization. Peru's Congress already has charged Fujimori, president from 1990-2000, with murder, kidnapping and inflicting serious injury for two massacres carried out by a 35-man paramilitary unit composed of armed forces troops.

The first attack was in 1991, when 15 people, including a child, were gunned down at a house party in Lima's Barrios Altos district. The second was in 1992, when nine students and a professor were shot to death at La Cantuta University.

Fujimori, 62, fled Peru in November and resigned the presidency amid a widening corruption scandal involving his former right-hand man and secret police chief, Vladimiro Montesinos. AFP

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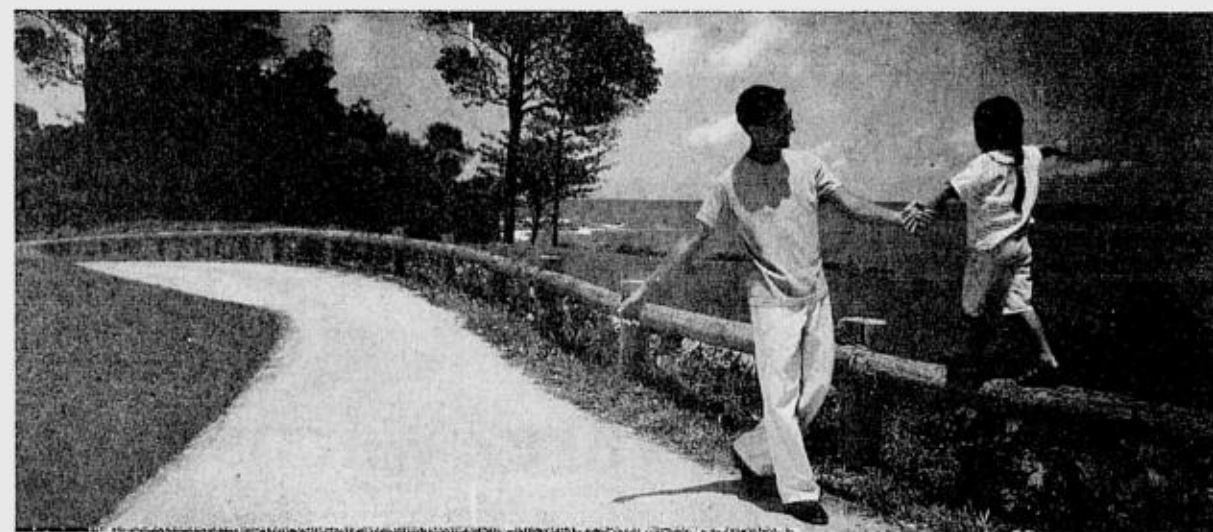
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Laog	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyosa, PDI Research/09/12/01

ROUNDUP

2 killed in road accident

LEGAZPICI CITY—Two motorcycle-riding men were killed on Saturday night when a bus hit them on the Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Roque, Milaor, Camarines Sur. Police identified the victims as Moises Monasterial, the driver, and Nonoy Pastion. The bus driver, identified as Nazafero Gabiola, 48, of Quezon City, is now detained at the Milaor municipal jail and is facing criminal charges.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Probe of killings urged

CALAPAN CITY—Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato has called on Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza and Interior Secretary Jose Lina to investigate the "root cause" of the spate of killings in her province. Ramirez-Sato said she found it disturbing that the killings were being blamed on or claimed by communist rebels. She said several of her supporters were abducted and killed, and the New People's Army simply issued statements claiming responsibility. But she said she was willing to hold dialogues with the NPA to attain peace in Mindoro.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA suspects warn judge

DARAGA, Albay—A municipal trial court judge has received a warning allegedly from the communist New People's Army after he ordered the eviction of at least 70 families from the lot of a certain Bernardo Silverio here. Judge William Volante told police that he received a letter with the NPA seal dated Aug. 19 and signed by a certain Ka Manuel. The letter accused Volante of favoring Silverio who, it said, "manipulated the legal process" to own the land that had been occupied by the families for over 50 years. Volante has asked the help of the police and media to verify the authenticity of the letter.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cleanest, greenest city

ROXAS CITY—This city has retained its title as the cleanest and greenest component city in Western Visayas in the Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran. Mayor Antonio del Rosario said he hoped that Roxas would bag the national title. He urged residents to cooperate in helping the city sustain its feat. Other winners were Calinog, Iloilo (Category A municipality), Banga, Aklan (Category B), Bacolod City (highly urbanized city), Negros Occidental (province) and Bugang River in Pandan, Antique (cleanest body of water).

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bail for drug suspect

ROXAS CITY—A member of a known clan here posted a P70,000 bail on drug charges filed against him by the Provincial Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force. Antonio Beldia VIII was arrested by PADTF members at his house on Roosevelt Heights here on Aug. 30 on the basis of a warrant signed by Regional Trial Court Judge Juliana Azarraga. The PADTF led by Insp. Arthur Masungong raided Beldia's house on July 25 and seized, among others, 22 packets containing about five grams of suspected shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Woman hurt in blast

KABACAN, North Cotabato—A woman suffered minor bruises when a homemade bomb exploded inside a bus here on Sunday morning. Police said the bomb, believed to have been planted by two teenagers, went off as the Rural Bus Transit bus was approaching its terminal. The bus came from Cagayan de Oro City and was on its way to Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat. Police said the bomb attack was meant to harass the bus firm. The victim was identified as Rosali Singco, 30, of Tulunan, North Cotabato.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Davao youth leader killed

DAYAO CITY—The Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Calinan District here was killed, while his companion was seriously injured when the motorcycle they were riding on smashed into a big tree on Saturday afternoon. Reynante Cuartero died on the spot while William Lumahog was brought to the Dr. Isaac Robillo Memorial Hospital. Police said Cuartero was going to Marilog District to attend to important matters when the accident occurred.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Halfway house put up

DAYAO CITY—The North Cotabato provincial government is putting up a halfway house here to monitor the safety of students from the province. Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the plan was finalized following the death of John Eric Alvir, a student from Kidapawan City a few months ago. Alvir was killed by members of a local teenage gang. The halfway house will also be a "meeting place" for students and their families.

Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palawan NGOs oppose nickel smelting project

BY JOFELLE TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Nongovernment organizations here are facing another giant with the entry of a nickel ore smelting plant that apparently has the blessings of the national government.

Offie Bernardino, executive director of the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), said they were surprised when Gov. Joel Reyes announced last week that President Macapagal-Arroyo would sign a \$150-million investment package in Japan during her state visit on Sept. 12.

The package involves funding for several projects, including the nickel refinery complex inside the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC) in Bataraza, Palawan.

Reyes said he was asked to join the President in Japan to witness the signing of the investment package.

The Board of Investments last year said the investment for the project will reach \$94 million. Project construction, it said, would start this year and full operation would begin in 2003.

Bernardino said the project seemed to have gotten government blessing even without an endorsement from the provincial council and an environmental compliance certificate.

The project's environmental impact assessment (EIA) is still under review by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), an environmental administrative body regulating projects in Palawan.

The complex will be a joint venture of the RTNMC, owned by brothers Manuel and Ronaldo Zamora and Japan's mining giant Sumitomo Metal Mining Corp.

"We are against the smelting plant because this is another threat to our environment," Bernardino said.

The PNNI has opposed the project because the proponent RTNMC has been tagged as a violator of environmental laws in Palawan.

"Since the RTNMC began operating in Palawan in 1971, it has not followed environmental laws. It has destroyed much of Palawan's environment," Bernardino explained.

The NGOs also fear that if the smelting plant pushes through, more mining areas will be exploited to meet the need for raw materials.

Bernardino also hit back at the consultancy firm Gaia South hired by the RTNMC to do the project's EIA.

She said it had not considered the concerns raised by the NGOs and individuals in the scoping session in December last year.

Representatives from the Gaia South and RTNMC denied this.

Jose Saret, RTNMC vice president for operations, countered that they have taken steps to reduce the pollution caused by the mining operations.

Saret also said they have started rehabilitating mined areas by planting trees and installing siltation ponds so as not to pollute rivers and farming areas.

Farmers who had complained that their farms were less productive because of the siltation were also compensated, he claimed.

Saret denied the existence of an ancestral domain claim in the proposed limestone quarry site.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, he said, had issued a certification stating that there was no such claim.

Dr. Rolando Cuano, EIA technical team leader of Gaia South, said the EIA did not miss out possible risks in constructing the smelting plant.

He said they did an objective assessment of the project's impact on the environment.



MORE than 5,800 board feet of narra flitches are impounded at the police provincial headquarters in Bayombong, Nueva Ecija, after these were intercepted by lawmen.

BEN MOSES EBREO

ILLEGALLY CUT?

Lawmen seize narra shipment

BY MELVIN GASCON
AND BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police and environment officials intercepted a truckload of fresh narra lumber believed to have been illegally cut from Cagayan forests early Monday.

A total of 5,837 board feet of narra lumber, said to be worth P1.2 million, were seized during the police operation in Barangay Magsaysay here, according to Chief Insp. Teodoro Santos, provincial police intelligence chief.

The lumber was shipped by the Bolos Point Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. (BPMPCI), based in Barangay Bolos Point in Gattaran town at the eastern coastline of Cagayan, some 500 kilometers from here.

The shipment was escorted by Marcos Echanique, BPMPCI chair, and seven others who were not immediately identified.

According to Adolfo Arizala, provincial legal officer of the Department of Natural Resources, the shipment was to be delivered to the Seagull Fine Wood Products in Antipolo City.

The clearance and shipping permits were issued by Agérico Bueno, community environment and natural resources officer of the DENR office in Aparri, Cagayan.

Arizala said additional documents were being sought from the BPMPCI to determine if they were allowed to sell such volume of lumber out of Cagayan.

"Once the documents are in order, we will release the lumber at once," he said.

Bolos Point, a wildlife sanctuary inside the forests of the Sierra Madre mountain range, is under the DENR's Community Based Forest Management program.

Under this program, people living in the forest areas are given occupancy rights by the DENR for the protection and rehabilitation of the forests.

They are also permitted to harvest

forest products for small-scale livelihood, according to DENR officials.

But DENR operatives suspected that the volume of the seized logs exceeded the figure declared in the documents, which, they said, would be an outright violation of the conditions of the permit.

"The common problem with the CBFM permits is that they are often abused," Arizala said.

The police operation was launched after intelligence officers were tipped off by informants in Cagayan on the purported illegal transport, according to Santos.

Santos questioned the issuance by the DENR of a permit for the transport of lumber despite the total ban on logging imposed in the country.

"We also doubt the legality (of the documents) because they did not bear any mark of having gone through the DENR checkpoints along the way," he said.

Alvarez warns erring mining firms

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez vowed to close mining firms seeking to explore gold and copper deposits in Nueva Vizcaya for violating conditions in their environmental compliance certificate.

"All those mining companies violating their ECC will be closed down," Alvarez said during the signing of memorandum of agreement for reforestation projects and Green Army graduation ceremony at Barangay Upi in Gamu town on Friday.

"As long as (mining operation) adversely affects the people's welfare, I would use my power to (stop it)," he told the INQUIRER.

Based on the ECC, the Climax-Arimco

Mining Corp. (CAMC) should form a multipartite monitoring team, mine rehabilitation fund and mine environmental protection and enhancement office to oversee the operations of the company.

But the firm has yet to comply with the conditions, said Judith Pasimio, team leader of Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Luzon office.

She said CAMC officials should have close coordination with the Environmental Management Bureau.

The CAMC, however, reiterated its stand not to withdraw its mining project in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.

Bob Gregory, CAMC vice president, claimed that financial losses are plaguing

the company due to delayed mining operations.

Included in the ECC issued by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles in 1999 was the letter-endorsement of the Regional Development Council that the mining project complies with the regional physical framework plan.

The RDC, however, said it has not issued any letter of endorsement.

"What RDC issued on Oct. 27, 2000 was a resolution rejecting the proposal of CAMC to operate the Didipio gold/copper mining project," Pasimio said. "The absence of such endorsement is made even palpable by this resolution." Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Incestuous rape bill compels moms to file charges

TAGBILARAN CITY—Mothers of victims of incestuous rape better take note: A bill has been filed in Congress that will penalize them if they refuse to prosecute offenders.

House Bill No. 1715, introduced by Bohol Rep. Edgardo Chatto on July 31, has been scheduled for a public hearing.

If enacted into law, any mother who refuses to prosecute her husband will face a prison term of 20 to 40 years and fine from P20,000 to P40,000.

Incestuous rape is considered a heinous crime under the Revised Penal Code, Chatto said. But, he said, legal experts had admitted that it was difficult to prosecute due to the reluctance of the victim to report the sexual abuse to authorities.

"This reluctance is attributed to the physical fear of her molester, aversion to visiting shame and scandal on herself and her family, unwillingness to put her father in prison or uncertainty about her mother's reaction," he said in his explanatory note.

Chatto, a lawyer, said the bill sought to penalize mothers who refuse to prosecute their husbands who commit or tolerate the crime of incestuous rape against their daughters.

It is understandable that the mother's initial reaction will be to refuse to believe that her husband is capable of raping their daughter, he said.

The mother, he added, might also choose not to do anything out of fear that a rapist is in the house.

"Under our constitutional hierarchy of values, children should be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development," Chatto said.

According to the bill, the parents, particularly the mothers, have a compelling duty to uphold this basic constitutional precept in order to preserve the sanctity of the family as a basic autonomous social institution.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Foul play seen in Jessica's death

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—"She could have been killed because of the anomaly she had uncovered," the father of a Philippine Military Academy graduate, who was found dead in her barracks at Fort Bonifacio in February this year, said in Filipino.

Efren Chavez, father of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, said his wife Melwida found a cassette tape that contained a conversation among three people discussing some "anomalous" transactions.

The tape was among Jessica's belongings recovered by her mother from the barracks.

Jessica, 23, a member of PMA Sanghaya Class of 2000, was found dead in her barracks on Feb. 9. She died from a bullet wound in the chest.

The conversation was believed intercepted by the young Chavez, who was platoon leader and signal officer of the 191st Military Police battalion at Fort Bonifacio at the time of her death, from

radio messages.

The elder Chavez said he was pinning his hope on the new evidence and the results of the cases filed against his daughter's superiors in connection with her death.

Maj. Ramon Dizon, Maj. Ricardo Visaya, Capt. Domingo Campos and Pvt. Mary Arvie Juanitas were charged with violation of the Articles of War, particularly on the obstruction of apprehension and prosecution of criminal offenders.

At the time of Chavez's death, Dizon was the commanding officer of the 191st Military Police battalion while Campos was the intelligence officer.

In the tape-recorded conversation, some "intriguing and puzzling discussions" were heard, the elder Chavez said.

He disclosed portions of the taped conversation:

"Yong kalahati sa akin muna. Alam mo



CHAVEZ

naman marami tayong pagbibigyan sa labas, kabila, kasama natin (One half is mine for now. You know that we will give to many outside, on the other side, our colleagues)," the voice of a certain Echo Mike was heard telling a certain Whisky Bravo.

Echo Mike said further that the other half would go to a certain Bravo Tango.

Another part of the conversation also mentioned an unidentified police officer who refused to cooperate with the three men.

Brig. Gen. Lamberto Sillona, inspector general of the Armed Forces, wrote the elder Chavez that there were serious lapses committed by personnel of the 191st MP Battalion that hampered the police investigation of the case.

Sillona traced these lapses to what he called "contamination" of the evidence submitted to them.

Codilla proclaimed today, but Locsin not yielding

BY JOEY A. GABIETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Provincial Board of Cansassers (PBC) in Leyte is set to proclaim today former Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. congressman of the province's fourth district.

Manuel Villegas, provincial poll supervisor, scheduled the proclamation after receiving the order of the Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo. The order appointed Villegas as the PBC chair.

Villegas needed the appointment order in implementing the directive from the Comelec on banc to proclaim Codilla.

He said the Comelec order was addressed to the former PBC, which was chaired by Federico Carolino, now election supervisor in Samar.

Upon receiving his appointment from Benipayo, Villegas immediately issued a notice convening the PBC members at the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Center in Tacloban City on Wednesday "to proclaim the winning candidate who obtained the highest number of votes during the May 14, 2001 elections."

Villegas was referring to Codilla (Lakas-NUCD) who garnered 71,350 votes or 17,903 votes ahead of Rep. Victoria Larrazabal Locsin (NPC).

The Comelec en banc, in a decision dated Aug. 29, declared the proclamation of Locsin void and ordered the PBC to reconvene and proclaim Codilla the winning candidate for congressman in the fourth district.



CODILLA

In reversing the order of its second division, the Comelec said Locsin's proclamation violated election laws and jurisprudence as the allegations against Codilla had not been fully substantiated.

On June 14, the Comelec second division disqualified Codilla "for indirect solicitation of votes" during the campaign period and ordered the

PBC to proclaim as winner the candidate who obtained the highest number of votes, except Codilla.

The ruling stemmed from a petition for disqualification filed against Codilla by Josephine de la Cruz, of Barangay Riverside, Kananga town.

The embattled congresswoman, however, has no plans of giving up her seat to her lone rival in the May 14 elections.

"No, no I will not step down. It should be the HRET (House of Representatives Election Tribunal) that should resolve this matter being the sole judge (on election-related cases involving congressmen)," she told Bombo Radyo on Monday.

She said she does not recognize the decision of the Comelec en banc that declared her proclamation void.

Locsin said she had been proclaimed and was now discharging the functions and duties of a legislator representing Leyte's fourth district.

Her husband, Ormoc City Mayor Carmelo Locsin, said they had no plans of taking legal action to stop the scheduled proclamation of Codilla because they did not recognize the jurisdiction of the Comelec over the case.

"Let them (the PBC) proclaim him. Representative Locsin will continue attending (to) her duties at the House of Representatives. She is still being recognized by her peers and is still in the roster," he added.

AFP-MILF ceasefire holding

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
AND GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The localized truce brokered by Malacafang in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte is holding, and both sides are reported to be religiously observing self-restraint to avoid confrontations.

The military, however, said the ceasefire would last only if the MILF behaves.

"We have lowered our alert status to middle level but would raise it once disturbances occur," Army Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said of the Maguindanao ceasefire.

"So far so good, it is holding," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu agreed.

He said the military should refrain from harassing MILF forces to prevent the resurgence of skirmishes.

The INQUIRER learned that civilians who fled toward the town centers of Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak have started to return home, an hour after the truce was announced on Monday.

Kabalu said it was relatively quiet in Lanao del Norte as well because both the military and the MILF immediately observed the local ceasefire agreement forged through the efforts of Presidential Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema. Sema is also a member

of the government peace panel dealing with the rebels.

As of press time, however, residents who fled the affected towns in Lanao del Norte have not returned home for fear of renewed violence.

Free

Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamco, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said MILF rebels were now free to move in Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak so long as they do not carry firearms.

Despite the ceasefire, both the military and the MILF said they would file their protests.

"Definitely, (the protests) will be among the contentious issues to be discussed in Malaysia later this month," Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief confided.

Kyamco said the ceasefire would enable the military to concentrate on efforts to rebuild war-torn areas.

"If this is realized, the Army could concentrate more on civic-action programs and in helping poor civilians than fighting guerrillas," he said.

Kabalu said MILF leaders' efforts were under way to settle peacefully the differences among families and clans that triggered the two-week skirmishes.

Food blockade

In Cagayan de Oro City, local officials said the military had ordered a food blockade in Munai, Lanao del Norte, but later decided to lift it.

Munai Mayor Casan Maquiling

said soldiers of the 26th Infantry Battalion were implementing the food blockade at their detachment in Kadulawan village.

The military did not allow the entry of big volumes of food to the town, he said.

Clashes in Munai started on Saturday after MILF rebels reportedly waylaid a team of soldiers who were to start rebuilding houses of civilians damaged by the government's all-out war last year.

Residents fled anew as the encounters spread to nearby towns. Munai treasurer Ibrahim Ampaso said the evacuees were hesitant to return home even with Monday's ceasefire.

He said most of the evacuees feared that the ceasefire would not hold.

Appeals

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo appealed to both the military and the rebels to refrain from shooting each other, and to the cease-

fire committee to finally go to work.

"This way, skirmishes will be prevented," Dimaporo said.

The damages from the latest hostilities have not been determined yet but the fighting have displaced some 2,000 families, she added.

Areas affected by the violence were Munai, Matunggao, Poona-Piagapo, Tagoloan and Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte.

In Iligan City, a media organization also called on government and MILF forces to stop the hostilities.

In a statement, the Mindanao Institute of Journalism also urged the two camps to refrain from provocative actions that could further endanger the shaky peace and order condition in the areas and elsewhere in Mindanao.

The MILF is currently engaged in a peace negotiation that paved the way for the signing of a ceasefire accord on Aug. 7 in Malaysia.

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Priest bails out Aussie accused of child abuse

BY ANSBERT JOAQUIN
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—Victor Fitzgerald, a 71-year-old Australian who was earlier convicted by a regional trial court here of child prostitution charges, was released last week after posting P100,000 in bail.

Despite the conviction, the Court of Appeals last year ordered a retrial of Fitzgerald's case and directed the RTC Branch 75 here to receive new pieces of evidence for his defense.

Fitzgerald was convicted in one of six child abuse cases filed against him by Irish priest Shay Cullen of the Preda Foundation, a center for child abuse victims.

The court sentenced him to 14 years in prison. Fitzgerald filed an appeal with the appellate court, which upheld the RTC decision and upgraded the prison term to 20 years.

The CA reversed its decision in September last year when it ordered a retrial.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Preda said it welcomed Fitzgerald's temporary release.

"We believe that the additional sentence imposed by the Court of Appeals for 20 years was very harsh and we have compassion for the prisoner. However, this does not diminish our commitment and concern for the thousands of victims of child sexual abuse," the statement said.

But it said Preda was hoping the Zambales clergy and Australian priest Michael Duffin, who paid Fitzgerald's bail, "will be even more concerned for the victims than they are for the convicted pedophiles."

'Biased' media

"We still stand by the resolution/decision of the Court of Appeals that the reversal of testimony by the children does not mean that he (Fitzgerald) did not commit the crime," the statement said.

Free for the first time after more than seven years in prison, Fitzgerald said he would rest for a day or two and start an exercise program to get fit again before preparing for his retrial.

He is staying at the St. Vincent's Church under the care of Duffin.

Fitzgerald also thanked Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of the Diocese of Iba and Harry Joost whom he both credited for being instrumental for his temporary liberty.

Earlier, Iñiguez and 27 other priests signed two affidavits seeking a retrial of Fitzgerald's case.

Fitzgerald also criticized the media that, he said, saw only one side of his story.

"The press in the past has been like Cyclops in its attitude toward my situation," he said.

"I am glad that Cullen failed to send me to Muntinlupa (national penitentiary). It would have been perfect for Cullen had he succeeded in keeping me incognito. Otherwise, my case would not have been heard," Fitzgerald said.

He said he is confident of defending himself during the retrial now that the witnesses are "no longer under the care and control of Cullen."

Fitzgerald's accusers escaped from Preda one after the other and retracted their statements accusing him of having abused them.

It's more than a change in name.



The University of Santo Tomas Hospital's Artificial Kidney Unit is now the Center for Kidney Diseases.

As one of the earliest kidney dialysis units in the country, with the impressive **distinction of having performed the first successful kidney transplant in the Philippines**, the University of Santo Tomas Hospital's Center for Kidney Diseases continues its proud tradition of excellence to provide optimal and comprehensive care to patients with end stage and various renal diseases. Its new name attests to the realization of establishing a modern facility that allows the performance of 400 dialysis procedures in a week with full integration of peritoneal dialysis and chemotherapy units all equipped with Baxter 1550 and automated cyclor machine. Coupled with the support from the Hospital's different ancillary services and disciplines of medicine, the Center can provide patients with TOTAL renal care.



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

How not to prepare for a disaster

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Zambales

After the June 1991 violent eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, no other event in Central Luzon saw close to 40,000 residents fleeing their communities. This time, the villagers faced the risks of flash floods and lahar avalanches expected from the overflow or breakout of water that rains have impounded in the volcano's crater-lake.

Ten years is so short a time to remember, or to forget, the lessons in disaster mitigation that the 1991 blasts left. But when the government embarked on draining the lake through a canal—no doubt a Third World remedy for a first-of-a-kind feat due to the absence of funds—the lessons of 1991 seemed to have lost sense.

NEXT time officials asked us to evacuate, we won't heed them anymore," Renato Deliguin of Paco fumed on Friday.

Climbing onto an Army truck that would take her and her family home, Lolita Rabaca of Bangan said, "We'd rather be home than starve here (at the Palanginan evacuation center). In the village, at least we have shrimp paste to eat."

Herded to the Loob-Bunga evacuation center in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit last Friday, Cristeta Josef at lamented, "I did have the blue card to show (I was a legitimate evacuee), but I did not get a food pack at the center."

In Loob-Bunga, Armando Amancio of Taugtog expressed worry about the absence of electricity and supply of potable water in the center.

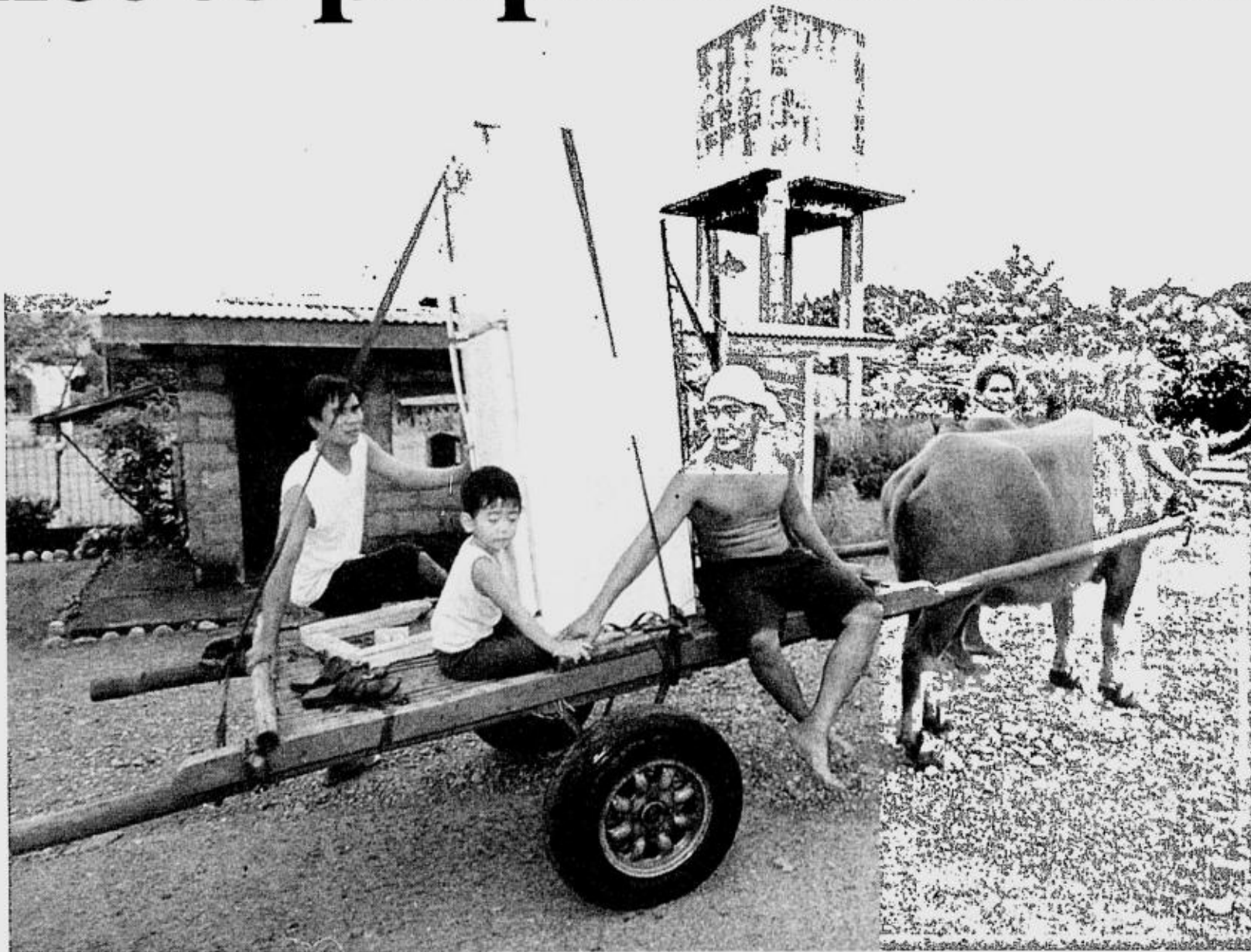
Like the other evacuees, he slept on cold, concrete floors with just plastic mats as protection. Ten or 11 families shared a 6x8-meter classroom.

In far-off Malombo, some 20 km from Pinatubo, many Aetas did not have the slightest idea about Thursday's breaching of the lake.

Similar complaints from the evacuees mounted on Friday until Saturday. And social workers like Lorna Macaraeg said they just have to stretch their patience.

"The goods aren't really enough," she said. These consisted of one-fourth kilo of rice for every person daily. One pack of noodles and one canned food are shared daily by two persons.

Behind Macaraeg, however, was a high stack of cartons of sardines that remained undistributed on Friday, on the very same day that the evacuees began leaving the centers.



HOMEWARD-BOUND: Residents of Botolan, Zambales, leave the evacuation center at the Palanginan Elementary School with complaints of little food supply. JOAN BONDOK

At the Botolan social welfare office on the same day, excess food supplies came in truckloads but these still have to be inventoried.

Tremendous pressures

The pressures of disseminating information and delivering social services during emergency situations like last week's were tremendous, according to Dodong Velasco, executive officer of the Zambales Disaster Coordinating Council.

The tasks became more awesome when the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which was overseeing the breaching attempt, expanded the scope of the danger zone from eight to 18 villages three days before the canal was opened.

The aim was to get everybody out of harm's way, Phivolcs geologists stationed in Botolan said.

From targeting to help 10,000 families, Velasco said the council and its municipal counterpart looked for resources to support the needs of 30,000 more families.

The next three days also saw them rushing in their information

campaign and in setting up 12 more evacuation centers, he recalled.

However, the delay in the risk assessment by Phivolcs, appreciated as well meaning, took their toll on rescue workers, according to Zambales-based non-government workers.

The limited time and the big number of threatened areas and population that needed to be reached reduced the opportunities to relay complete and correct information and to make the centers as livable as possible, they said.

At best, the evacuees got the basic information on the risks. At worst, they understood the situation vaguely. Residents said the standard message of barangay officials was: "Go to the evacuation centers. We will pick you up on Wednesday. The canal at Pinatubo will be opened on Thursday. There might be flash floods or lahar flows."

Many residents recalled they were not told how many days they would stay in the centers. They were not instructed on what exactly to

bring or what conditions to expect in the centers.

And there was confusion on when exactly the municipal government would support the food needs of the evacuees. Botolan Mayor Roger Yap said food assistance was to last for two days, but social workers said food aid would only be given for a day.

Skepticism and distrust

If at all, these were indications that incoherent and inadequate information reached the threatened population, which, those involved in the 1991 eruptions realized, had bred skepticism and distrust among the residents, according to Lan Mercado, Philippine representative of the Britain-based aid organization Oxfam.

Why this was so have yet to be assessed, Velasco said. Yap partly blamed the deficiencies to NGOs that, he said, did not coordinate their activities with the local government.

Leaders of several NGOs in Zambales said they tried, but they were invited late in coordination

meetings of government agencies. In one meeting, one NGO leader said they were shut off from a discussion during which critical decisions were made, like the expansion of the scope of the danger zone.

Seeking to draw new lessons, the NGO leaders asked: How does the government regard civil society in emergency situations? Partners or enemies?

Resources, according to Yap, also dictated the nature and duration of assistance.

On Friday when some 2,000 families in six high-risk villages were ordered by Phivolcs to remain in the centers, Yap said, "We sent them home. It's a pity seeing them in the centers. The conditions are not ideal there. And we don't have enough resources to sustain their stay there."

Despite the magnitude and seriousness of the situation, Mercado observed that the municipal and provincial governments had tried to ease the pressures.

This, despite the municipal government not getting financial support from the national government.

It spent borrowed funds for the construction of the canal that was to save the town from the impending disaster.

And many NGO workers, and even some government officials, regard the lack of funds as a form of insensitivity to a town faced with a real threat.

The canal has been finished, but the Department of Public Works and Highways and the National Disaster Coordinating Council are still arguing about where to get the money.

What now?

Whether the canal was effective in erasing the prospect of a catastrophic lake breakout, similar to what happened in Mt. Parker in Cotabato in 1995 which killed 85 people, was not clear as of Monday.

The Phivolcs, however, prematurely announced a success that, according to Mercado, might lull the people into complacency or give them a false sense of security.

It has still to issue fresh updates on the situation of the crater understandably because reaching it was a difficult task in itself.

No words have come from the DPWH except face-saving statements in defense of the correctness of the design following observations by the Phivolcs chief, Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, that it let out a sluggish flow.

Mercado noted strategic issues in the second Pinatubo emergency situation. These, she said, would improve the capabilities of Phivolcs, the local governments and the residents to prepare for disasters.

First, the poverty-reduction thrust of the national government requires additional budget for disaster mitigation. Simply put, this means putting more money in programs that will help the poor, who are vulnerable to disasters and who get poorer because of disasters, cope with such events.

For one, Phivolcs, the government agency monitoring 22 active volcanoes in the country, only operates on a P90-million budget this year.

Second, the Internal Revenue Allotment sharing scheme must be revised because it gives more to rich towns than to poor towns.

Third, utilization of the 5-percent calamity fund must be corrected. Local governments are only allowed to use the fund after the calamity has struck and not before it occurs.

"Disaster preparedness is actually about preparing the people more than anything else, of empowering them to deal best with the disasters," Mercado said.

Two artists make San Fernando City proud

BY GIA DAMASO-DUMO
San Fernando City

GENIUS," says Ezra Pound, "is the capacity to see 10 things where the ordinary man sees one, and where the man of talent sees two or three, plus the ability to register that multiple perception in the material of his art."

Does artistic genius blossom early on in one's life and pass on from one generation to the next? It seems so, at least for these two very discrete artists from San Fernando City, who do not know of the existence of each other, except in the verisimilitude of this writer's piece.

One of them is the accomplished watercolorist and sculptor Leonardo M. Hidalgo, 66, who, after a nine-year hiatus, returned to the country last month from Philadelphia and just concluded a solo exhibit, "Seasons," at the Asia Art Gallery at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

His most recent works—including a bust portrait of Don Joaquin Ortega, the first civil governor of La Union whose public service centennial was celebrated on Aug. 15—are currently on exhibit at the La Union provincial capitol in San Fernando City.

The other is a 9-year-old special child Roberto S. Bonifacio, who recently won first prize in the Nido Little Artists Workshop, a widely publicized contest that involved 32 art schools

nationwide and culminated in an exhibit at the Atrium of the SM Megamall-B on Aug. 11.

Mildly autistic

Bonifacio, or "Rob," was diagnosed to be mildly autistic when he was 4. He took art lessons at the Nemiranda Art School and is now a regular Grade 3 pupil at a private school in San Fernando.

Both were born and raised in San Fernando. While Rob is just beginning to show his talent through doodles of his favorite cartoon and family images and occasional showpieces in cray-pas, Hidalgo recalls carving figures of saints from candle wax, which was plentiful during Holy Week processions, in his boyhood days.

Both partly attribute their talents to their forebears who excelled in their craft. Hidalgo, to the great Juan Luna, whose mother was his grandmother's cousin; and Bonifacio to a little-known but talented furniture craftsman in more recent history, Bienvenido Balingit.

In the 1950s, Balingit, an enterprising native of Pampanga, made a living carving religious relics and furniture pieces and selling them in Grace Park, Calocan City, accord-



SPECIAL child Rob Bonifacio with one of his art works. GIA DAMASO-DUMO

ing to Rey Bonifacio, Rob's father who is now the chief executive officer of the BHF Prime Group Corp.

Unfortunately, he did not live to see how his artistic and entrepreneurial skills have given birth to a prosperous furniture and appliance enterprise—now known as the Balingit Home Furnishings—or another artist in the family, Rob.

On a rare visit to San Fernando last month, Hidalgo pleasantly agreed to an unscheduled one-on-one interview at the Ortega residence, where he was a guest of Gov. Victor Ortega and Mayor Mary Jane Ortega. Equally unarmored, I opened the interview by candidly admitting that I was this uncultured vulture who was, painfully, just about to know this well-known artist.

Unassuming

But like a man of true achievement, he struck me as peaceful and unassuming, terse but candid. All

these complemented by longish salt-and-pepper hair with fringes identified with his era, clear rosy skin like most balikbayans from cooler climes, and a boyish smile underneath his trademark mustache that emphasized his oriental eyes.

He did not hide his pleasure when he heard comments that he resembled Gen. Antonio Luna, whose sculptural monument on horseback he created and which now stands at the plaza of Luna town.

After finishing high school in San Fernando, Hidalgo earned his BA in Fine Arts from the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. His list of mentors and influences included such names as Vicente Manansala, Victorio Edades, Bonifacio Cristobal, Diosdado Lorenzo and, especially, Galo Ocampo, who had made him an apprentice.

From 1960 to 1964, Hidalgo

studied painting at the Academia de Belle Arti in Rome as a scholar of the Italian government, along with three other Filipinos—Leon Pacunayan, Florencio Concepcion and Angelito David. He specialized in etching (aqua-forte) and lithography.

Artistic style

It was during this time that he developed his own artistic style, which won him 19 medals and trophies successively in various international competitions. Among these awards were the prestigious Premio Internazionale di Pittura Estemporanea golden cup in 1961 and the Premio Gubbio silver cup in 1962.

For three consecutive years, starting 1963, he represented the Philippines to France to participate in the Biennale de Paris, Troisieme Biennale de Paris, and Quatrieme Biennale de Paris and to be a scenic artist for the Dino de Laurentis film, "Agony and Ecstasy of Michaelangelo."

He returned to the Philippines to join the faculty of the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts, and later, from 1979 to 1985, to head its painting department. In 1979, he was commissioned by the government to do the bust portraits of 11 Philippine presidents.

Among his other sculptures, executed in marble dust and white cement, are those of Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Fr. Jose Burgos, Emilio Aguinaldo, Gregorio del Pilar, Antonio Luna and Sen. Camilo Osias.

On the scenic Heroes Hill leading to the La Union capitol, nine Filipino heroes are again immortalized through Hidalgo's works.

At the Dipatan gate of the UST, one would find another masterpiece of Hidalgo's depicting the Dominican Martyrs and St. Lorenzo Ruiz. Also credited to his extraordinary talent is the restoration of the Stations of the Cross at the St. Augustine Church in the Old City.

His watercolors and acrylics, like those currently on exhibit, often depict familiar landscapes and seascapes changing through time and seasons, and countryside scenes culled from childhood impressions of San Fernando.

His other favorite subjects are his wife Alba, his only daughter Odra Noelle (the father's name spelled backward) who is a former professional ballet dancer, and his granddaughter Isabella.

With 32 medals and trophies, 84 major group exhibits and 25 solo exhibits to his credit, Hidalgo is certainly a made man.

As to Rob, if the hands that shaped candle droplets could one day immortalize great men through sculptures that now adorn parks and museums, who knows where the burgeoning talent of this other San Fernando native would one day lead?

'Woman's instinct' in P90-M bust

(From page A1)

Initial analysis revealed that it contained methamphetamine hydrochloride, the scientific name for shabu. A sample analyzed by the National Bureau of Investigation resulted in similar findings.

Saplaia, chief of the Customs Enforcement and Security Service at the Naia, said the shabu was cleverly disguised as "cork-like" packaging material to support and protect the breakable items.

She surmised that the shabu must have been baked to make it appear like cork, a soft brown material usually used to protect fragile items such as drinking glasses.

The shipment has an estimated street value of P90 million.

From China

The shipment arrived from Guangzhou, China, via the Subic Freeport on Sept. 8 on board a Federal Express plane. It was transported to Manila the following day.

The boxes, declared as "glasses" with a gross weight of 78 kilos, were

consigned to VIE International Express (Canada Co. Ltd.) and facilitated by J.M. Laurente Brokerage. The shipment was addressed to a certain Salacop Baraontong of Barangay Daang-hari in Quezon City. Almost half of the shipment's weight consisted of the illegal drug.

The bust, the biggest in recent years, came amid fresh allegations that Hong Kong triad members had been plying their trade in the country with the blessings of some police authorities.

During a Senate hearing last week, former Philippine National Police narcotics chief Reynaldo Acop testified that members of the triad had "trouble shooters" at the Bureau of Immigration, the Bureau of Customs, the Department of Justice and the Land Transportation Office.

Biggest bust

In August 1999, the Bureau of Customs confiscated some 108 kilos of shabu at the Manila port area. Laurente Brokerage also facilitated that shipment, Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas said.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva ordered Director Godofredo

Olores of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service to conduct an immediate investigation and file corresponding charges against persons responsible for the drug smuggling attempt.

Members of the team which conducted the search operation received a commendation from Villanueva. Cited were Saplaia, Lt. Marlon Alameda, special agents Ruben Virata and Honorato Gulinao, and Jovy Templo of the Naia customs district office.

NBI officials led by NCR Director Edmund Arugay took custody of the drugs and invited two employees of Laurente Brokerage for further investigation.

Human smuggling

The Bureau of Immigration, filed criminal charges against two Chinese tagged as the brains of a big-time human trafficking syndicate that smuggles mainland Chinese to Hong Kong from Manila.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo identified those charged in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court as Wu

Wei Kang, the alleged leader of the human smuggling ring, and Ka Ho See, a suspected courier.

Domingo said the duo were charged in connection with their recent attempt to smuggle out of the country and into Hong Kong seven mainland Chinese with fake BI reentry permits and official receipts. The seven were stopped from leaving last Aug. 17 when immigration officers at the Naia sensed irregularities in their documents.

Immigration lawyer Gary Mendoza, who investigated the case, said the syndicate had well-entrenched connections inside and outside the bureau.

He said this was bolstered by findings that See Ka Ho had gone on 31 trips from Manila to Hong Kong and back since 1999.

According to Mendoza, the syndicate tries to make it appear that the persons being smuggled to Hong Kong are native-born Chinese citizens of the Philippines, so they can easily apply for permanent residence status in the former British colony.

Gloria PR man quits Pagcor but keeps other posts

(From page A1)

Gaming Corp. Ang told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he would also quit his two other government posts—as chair of the sequestered TV station RPN-9 and as director of the printing office Apo-Neda.

But late last month, the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) said Ang was reportedly "in control" of such other government agencies as the Philippine Broadcasting Service (PBS), Office of the Press Secretary, National Broadcasting Network (formerly PTV-4), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), among others.

Ang said he would stay on as the President's "personal PR consultant" and would "still be loyal to her."

News of Ang's resignation from Pagcor comes amid talk of other resignations in the Cabinet, which the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao denied.

At a briefing yesterday, Tiglao said the President had accepted Ang's resignation and replaced him with Danny Gozo.

But Gozo is an incumbent Pagcor director, sources said. They also said Luis Carlos, supposedly recommended by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Sison, had replaced Ang.

Ang said he did not recommend anyone as his replacement.

The PCA had issued a statement urging the Office of the Ombudsman to look into Ang's "public accountability" in view of his multiple government posts.

But Ang said yesterday that his resignation from Pagcor had nothing to do with the PCA demand.

"This is a democratic country. They are free to file a case against me but I am also free to file a counter-charge if they cannot prove their accusations," he said.

Ang said the PCA statement had no basis because he held directorships only at Pagcor and Apo-Neda and chaired RPN-9.

"What accountability are they talking about? What about them? They are pressuring the government, but they are also being held accountable?" he said.

'No, no'

Asked if his resignation indicated a falling out with the President or his being eased out of her inner circle, Ang said laughingly: "No, no."

He said the President was still consulting him "regularly—sometimes twice or thrice a day."

Ang is considered among Ms. Macapagal's closest advisers, having served as her public relations man since 1993 and handled her campaigns for senator and vice president.

When Ms. Macapagal attended a forum of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry early in her presidency, she informally designated Ang as her liaison with the Chinese-Filipino community concerning problems with kidnapping and other crimes.

He is also believed responsible for the appointment of certain officials at the sequestered Journal Group of Publications.

Ang recently bought the newspaper Manila Times, of which he is now publisher and board chair. He also publishes the Filipino-language newspaper Kabayan.

When he acquired the Times, he said it would be "pro-Gloria but not pro-ad-

ministration."

Ang said he did not seek the posts at Pagcor, Apo-Neda and RPN-9.

"But I'm grateful to the President, and I'm very appreciative of her trust and confidence in me. But since I could not devote my time (to these posts), I feel it would be unfair for me to continue holding them," he said.

Ang also said he wanted to devote his time to publishing and building a legacy for his children.

"Presidents come and go but institutions stay. I want to leave something important to my children," he said.

P10,000 per board meeting

Ang cited his inability to attend Pagcor board meetings as the reason for his resignation.

He said he tendered his resignation three weeks ago, and that he went to see the President about it.

Since he was named Pagcor director last February, Ang was able to attend only five of the weekly board meetings. Each of the five directors are paid P10,000 for every meeting attended.

Ang said he also had difficulty finding time for meetings at Apo-Neda—where he also gets P10,000 per meeting—and would quit his post there "any time."

He said he still wanted to solve the labor, financial and equipment problems at RPN-9 and would "hopefully" leave the station next year.

"I want to leave it in order," he said.

When asked, Ang explained his role in the termination last July of the radio program "Think About It" at the government-run dBWR.

He said that in one of the Pagcor board meetings, he learned that it had been shelling out P70,000 a month for ads in the program hosted by Felix "Jun" Alegre.

"I did that as a taxpayer," he said.

Ang said he had learned that Alegre had not been sharing the program's income with the station, as stipulated in the co-production contract.

He said Alegre was "a thief and a crook" who bagged the contract during the Estrada administration with the help of then PBS director Ding Gagelonia.

He said he had asked his lawyer to study the filing of a graft case against Alegre and Gagelonia.

In a Pinoy Times report, Alegre had described the termination of his program as "a Gestapo-like assault against press freedom."

He quoted PBS director Ben Tabisaura as saying that the PCSO, one of the program sponsors, had complained about his criticisms of the supposed irregularities concerning the PCSO's media consultants.

Loyalty

To prove his unwavering loyalty to the President, Ang defended her outburst Friday regarding National Food Authority Administrator Antonio Abad.

The President blew her top when told at her press conference that Abad seemed to question her decision to confiscate rotting rice stocks in a private warehouse in Batangas.

Ang said that even before the President flew to Batangas, she had received information on similar cases of rice stocks supposedly having been sold but still remaining in private warehouses.

"I can't blame her (for getting mad)," he said, adding that government officials should be "more conscious of their responsibility of serving Filipinos."

Symbol of US economic might

(From page A1)

pressive, so Minoru Yamasaki was chosen as the architect. Emery Roth and Sons was chosen as the associate architects to handle the production and to collaborate on the design. The firm had designed more than 60 skyscrapers in Manhattan since the end of World War II.

Yamasaki explained that when the twin towers idea was finally settled upon, the building was pushed higher and higher by the Port Authority to meet their rental criteria.

Tallest until...

At a height of 1,350 feet, the towers

were the tallest in the world at the time they were built. Up to yesterday, they were still the tallest buildings in New York. That honor will now be returned to the Empire State Building.

The buildings had a total gross floor area of 12 million square feet on a 16-acre site. Four million square feet were designed for private international trading firms. The remainder of the space was to be used for local, state, federal and foreign governments. The plan provided for 75 percent of the square footage to be rentable office space. Most high rise buildings only have about 52 percent rental space because of increased

structural and utility needs as the height goes up.

The lower part of the building was of most concern to Yamasaki so he created an open five-acre plaza to create a sense of space for people next to the huge structures.

The plaza was protected from the winds blowing off the Hudson River by smaller five-story buildings surrounding the base of the towers.

The towers required 23-meter deep foundations and the dug-out earth was used as landfill for nearby Battery Park. The prefabricated steel elements made in the Midwest and the West Coast were shipped to New York and eight cranes

built in Australia were used to hoist all the elements into place. In all, 181,400 metric tons of structural steel were used in the towers.

The towers started to rise off the ground in March 1969 and were dedicated on April 4, 1973.

On Feb. 26, 1993, a terrorist bomb exploded in building number one's lower level.

Chaos gripped New York then, with the pervading feeling being one of incredulity that such an American symbol could have been attacked.

Yesterday, that symbol came down, helpless and unprotected. With information taken from the WTC Register

'Worse than Pearl Harbor'

NEW YORK—In a city full of famous buildings, the twin towers of the World Trade Center outdid them all—massive glass-and-steel sculptures that appeared to float above the tip of lower Manhattan.

At 110 floors each, the boxlike pillars looked simple in form, but they were sturdy architectural marvels that provided a home for 1,200 businesses, many of them involved in international trade.

First imagined in the early 1960s as part of an urban renewal project, the first buildings in the

\$1.2 billion, 6.4-hectare complex opened in 1970.

The twin towers were completed in 1976, immense in every detail—43,000 windows, 99 elevators, 405 meters tall—and designed to be a critical hub for international trade. At the time, they were the tallest buildings in the world; until Tuesday, they remained the tallest in New York.

The buildings were designed to be especially sturdy, using load-bearing steel walls rather than the steel-cage construction typical of modern skyscrapers.

By the time the final building of the seven-building complex was completed in 1988, the center had lured scores of businesses, including commodity exchanges, major investment firms, banks, law firms and a hotel.

The center was fully rented out when the towers collapsed Tuesday. Roughly 50,000 people worked in the towers; the complex, which included an observation deck and a number of other tourist attractions, drew another 90,000 visitors each day, according to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey,

which runs the complex.

Tuesday's tragedy clearly had that effect on Lewis Eisenberg, chair of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who said he was "devastated beyond belief."

"I mean, in many respects this is significantly worse than Pearl Harbor, and we don't know who the enemy is. As Americans we will pull together and do what's right."

He said he was stunned: "I just saw my two towers fall."

AP

COA wants Pascual et al. to return P72M

(From page A1)

"They will just give and give. We will disallow and disallow," Dimagiba said.

"But after the total process of appeal had been completed and it was rendered really illegal (by the Supreme Court), the GSIS might be faulted because its issuance of the Elip was not done in good faith," she said.

"They will be forced to return the funds," she said.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the COA decision disallowing the fat retirement package of the GSIS was consistent with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to reduce the excessive salaries and compensation enjoyed by top officials of at least 14 government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs).

Outraged

Militants were outraged by what they described as "despicable act of corruption" at the GSIS where top officials became "instant millionaires" after they retired.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said he would ask Congress to conduct a formal investigation of Elip.

"If the COA does not have the authority to void it, then Congress and the Senate should. It's doubtful that the Elip, if allowed to continue, will ben-

efit the rank-and-file government employees," Beltran said.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said corrupt GSIS officials were using the Elip for their own benefit.

"Heads must roll as we must send a strong signal that thievery of the public coffers will not go unpunished," Fortaleza said.

Dimagiba said the Elip was a "supplementary retirement scheme" prohibited under the Teves law.

The Supreme Court said that the Teves law "in no uncertain terms barred" the creation of any insurance or retirement plan "other than the existing government retirement package."

"To ignore this rule otherwise would be tantamount to permitting every other government office or agency to put up its own supplementary retirement benefit plan under the guise of 'financial assistance,'" a COA memorandum and legal opinion said.

Dimagiba said she had questioned the Elip before when Pascual was still the GSIS president. Pascual just referred her to the GSIS legal counsel.

Dimagiba also questioned the inclusion of Pascual's years of service outside GSIS, particularly his term as an official of the Philippine National Bank, in his P11.4-million Elip package. Pascual served the GSIS for only two years.

Elip is supposedly exclusive to GSIS employees for their years of service in

the GSIS alone.

Under the Elip, the benefits of a GSIS employee are computed at 1.5 months of salary for every year of service for the first 20 years, instead of the usual one month per year of service under the ordinary retirement package.

The Elip for GSIS employees with 21 years to 30 years of service is computed at two months of salary for every year of service, instead of the usual 1.5 months per year of service for the same period.

Those with at least 31 years of service in the GSIS are entitled to 2.5 months of salary for every year of service.

Dimagiba noted that aside from the Elip, GSIS employees receive the usual retirement package for government employees, or a five-year lump sum under Republic Acts 660 and 8291.

In addition, GSIS employees enjoy compensation much higher than the standard salary package for other government employees.

Like the Social Security System, the GSIS is exempted from the salary standardization law (SSL).

GSIS gives a monthly salary to its executives ranging from P100,000 to P357,000.

26-percent salary increase

Not only that. A COA report found that a 26-percent increase in the salaries and wages was given by GSIS to

its employees between 1999 and 2000. In a privileged speech on Aug. 20, 2001, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said the salary structure in GSIS was designed to allow a 26-percent average yearly increase.

The COA said the GSIS spent P1.114 billion in salaries and wages alone in 2000, while in 1999, it spent P891.56 million, or a difference of 222.6 million.

In the House of Representatives, Beltran said the GSIS and the Social Security System for private sector workers had become the "golden geese" for presidential cronies.

Last month, 12 former SSS and GSIS officials were charged with graft before the Office of the Ombudsman for manipulating funds.

Beltran said it was not right for high government officials to get a "king's ransom" in retirement benefits in light of government employees' meagre benefits.

He reiterated his support for an immediate P3,000 across-the-board salary increase for government employees.

"The Macapagal administration and the Department of Budget and Management keep saying that there are no funds for a substantial wage hike for government employees. But a handful of GSIS officials have been enjoying multi-million early retirement benefits," he lamented. With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Unheralded RP player humbles 'Bata' Reyes

(From page A1)

six-gold haul in Day Four of the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

Wushu produced two more golds, taekwondo, bowling and shooting added one each, but these victories hardly soothed the wounded Philippine pride as the country remains mired in fifth place in the race for overall supremacy.

Wushu continued to lift the Filipino spirits with two more golds courtesy of Marques Sanguiao (60 kg) and Jerome Calica (52 kg) both in men's sanshou. They followed the footsteps of Mark Robert Rosales and Willie Wang, winners of gunshu and qianshu, respectively, last Monday at the Penang International Sports Arena.

Also in Penang, bowling finally hit pay dirt with the victory of veteran Arianne Cerdana and Liza del Rosario in women's doubles. They beat another Filipino tandem—Josephine Canaro/Irene Garcia—with 2,531 pinfalls, 21 more than the silver medalists. The bronze went to Singapore's Renna Teng

Pei Ling and Yap Seok Kim (2501), while the highly favored Malaysia pair of singles champion and former world bowler of the year Shalin Zulkifli finished fourth with 2,487.

Nelia Sy-Ycasas, a bronze medalist in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, reigned supreme in the welterweight class, becoming the third member of the taekwondo contingent to bag gold at the Municipal Council Indoor Stadium in Johor Baru, a popular tourist destination with its enchanting coastline and proximity to Singapore.

Sydney Olympian Jasmin Luis struck gold at the Subang shooting range, winning the three-prone event. Still it was the unheralded Cortez who created a stir with his conquest of former world champion Reyes, dubbed the "Magician" in billiards circles, in the race-to-5 final.

So stunned was Reyes that he returned to the pool table after congratulating Cortez, trying twice the crucial shot that paved the way for Cortez's victory. Reyes also flubbed both attempts.

The six-gold output surpassed the Philippines' five-gold performance last Monday but this hardly mattered as Vietnam, host of the 2003 Games, continued to make heads turn with its wondrous showing.

Powered by its combat sports bets, Vietnam has piled up 16 golds, 16 silvers and 24 bronzes, compared with the 12-23-21 (gold-silver-bronze) haul of the Philippines as of the latest count.

Malaysia has pulled away with a 36-22-31 tally, followed by defending overall champion Thailand (22-23-26) and traditional powerhouse Indonesia (22-18-27). Singapore, fourth placer in Brunei, trails the Philippines with a 7-8-15 count, followed by Myanmar with 6-7-19.

Filipino sports officials have set a target of not less than 40 golds to better the country's fifth place finish in Brunei. This target remains reachable but athletics, judo and billiards must work overtime to make up for the disappointments in gymnastics and swimming.

Fully recovered from a caesarean

operation last year, the 31-year-old Sy Ycasas beat Thailand's Duangsuda Tunvehasirikun by superiority after the match ended at 2-2. She joined finweight Roberto Cruz and lightweight Veronica Domingo as taekwondo champions.

The men's basketball team, composed of MBA stars, devastated the Vietnamese, 100-40, for their second straight win. Five players, led by Ruben de la Rosa (17 points), scored in double figures.

Movie actor Richard Gomez earned a silver in fencing's men's individual epee, matching Loretta Ann Sandigo's silver in the women's division.

Boxers Violito Payla and Romeo Brin hurdled their respective rivals, but newcomer Marlon Gosc, a light heavyweight lost by RSC (referee stopped contest) to Thailand's Olympic bronze medalist Pornchai Thongburan.

Payla whipped Indonesia's Melky Lelewoto, 15-8, in the flyweight division, while Brin dumped Myanmar's Myo Htet Aung.

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USA SEMINAR DETAILS

MANILA
 DATE : September 15, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 A.M.
 VENUE : PHIL. TRADE TRAINING CTR., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
 TEL. NO. : 881-5686 to 88 / 881-5920 to 21
 FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN

DAVAO
 DATE : September 13, 2001 (Thursday) 9:30 P.M.
 VENUE : MARCO POLO HOTEL, C.M. Recto St., Davao City
 TEL. NO. : (082) 222-1351 to 52 // 222-2710 to 11
 FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 800 WALK-IN

LEGASPI
 DATE : September 18, 2001 (Tuesday) 3:00 P.M.
 VENUE : HOTEL LATRINHADO, Rizal St., Legaspi City 4500
 TEL. NO. : (052) 820-6168 // 488-3048 // 245-5641 // (0918) 910-2894
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Jordan confirms return to NBA

CHICAGO—Michael Jordan all but confirmed Monday that he'd return to play professional basketball, and that the world would know for sure in the next 10 days.

Asked about a comeback during a half-hour conversation with reporters on a curb outside his restaurant, a sly smile played on Jordan's lips. A moment later, he looked up and said, "I'm doing it for the love of the game. Nothing else. For the love of the game."

The basketball superstar initially retired as a player in 1993 after winning three NBA titles with Chicago and tried to make a career in professional baseball. But he returned to the Bulls for the NBA playoffs in 1995 and played through 1998, winning three more titles.

The comeback with the Washington Wizards that Jordan began outlining five months ago looks to be all but complete. He's worked out religiously. He's tested himself and his game repeatedly against top-caliber NBA players, with league referees officiating. And he's found the only question remaining is whether the tendinitis in his right knee would limit his effectiveness.

In the conversation, which included reporters from the Chicago Sun-Times and cnni.com, he confirmed that a news conference has been planned for Washington, D.C., in the next 10 days to announce his decision.

For the first time since acknowledging in April that he was serious about coming back, Jordan dropped the conditional tense when talking about his basketball future. He didn't put a limit on how long that might last.

"I want to play for years," he said.

A half-mile (0.8 kilometers) to the west, a bronze statue of Jordan stood guard outside the United Center, an arena he practically built for Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf and where his jersey hangs in the rafters alongside the six championship banners he brought to Chicago. A hundred yards to the east



JORDAN: For the love of the game. AP

was Hoops the Gym, where pickup games this summer against the likes of Penny Hardaway, Michael Finley, Antoine Walker, Juwan Howard and Charles Oakley convinced Jordan that he could still compete at the highest level. AP

SEA GAMES Pagunsan shares golf lead with Thai

KUALA LUMPUR—Endgame bogeys gave Juvic Pagunsan a two-over-par 74 yesterday to settle for a share of the lead after two rounds of the 21st Southeast Asian golf competition here.

The 23-year-old Pagunsan recovered from a first-hole double bogey on a hooked tee shot with birdies on 6 and 12, only to stumble into bogeys on 17 and 18.

Unlike in Round 1 when he wielded an extra hot putter that produced only 24 putts, Pagunsan kept missing putts from makeable distances yesterday at the sun-splashed Sungai Long Golf & Country Club.

"I can't understand my putting today," he said in Filipino. "Suddenly, it was gone."

Still, the erstwhile first-day leader was 3-under for the tournament adding his first-round 67, tying him for first with Thailand's Wisut Artjanawat at 141.

Wisut grabbed a share of the lead by sinking a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th where Pagunsan muffed a 4-footer for par after a missed green.

They are two strokes ahead of Indonesia's Indra Hermawan (71-72=143)



BAYRON

and four over both Malaysia's Shaaban Hussin (74-71=145) and Thailand top seed Prom Meesawat (73-72=145).

But while Pagunsan faltered somewhat yesterday, his teammates Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza and Marvin Dumandan surpassed their first-day showing and helped shove the Philippines into a comfortable position in the nine-team standings.

The 22-year-old Bayron matched par 72 after an 82, Saragoza had a 76 from a previous 78 and Dumandan a 76 from an 81 as the Filipinos grabbed solo fourth with a plus 16.

Thailand was ahead with a minus 6, followed by Malaysia with a plus 6 and Indonesia with a plus 11. Myanmar was fifth at plus 19 and Brunei sixth at plus 22.

The pairings in the team match play on Sept. 15-16 are No. 1 against No. 8 and No. 4 against No. 5 in the first bracket. The second bracket pits No. 2 against No. 7 and No. 3 against No. 6.

"While we are in strong contention for the individual gold, our chances in team play will be all the more enhanced if we fall into the bracket outside of Thailand," said Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Phil-

ippines. "The realistic target now for team play is No. 3 as we are just five behind third-running Indonesia."

With its minus 6 total, Thailand seemed headed to take the No. 1 position as it was 12 shots ahead of the second running Malaysia. Indonesia was 17 behind and the Philippines 22 behind.

"As I keep saying, the change of format was a blessing in disguise," said team captain Iggy Claveilla. "As things stand now, we are still very much in contention for the team gold since the team battle does not begin until Saturday."

The RP ladies were also very much in contention, with Carmelette Villaraman opening up with a 75 to stay in third spot, four shots behind Thailand's Titiya Plucksataporn (71).

Heidi Chua shot a 78, her roller-coaster round marred by a bogey-bogey finish. She bogeyed three of her four holes and spent the rest of the day struggling.

Ruby Chico, the first gold medalist of the Games with golf's introduction into the SEAG in 1987, made bogeys on 15, 16 and 17 for an 80 that put the Philippines in fourth spot in team play behind Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Like in men's play, the team event in women's golf is match play on Sept. 15-16, with the topnotcher having a bye in Round 1 while the six nations jockey for quarterfinal slots on Saturday morning.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
New York	86	57	.601	—
Boston	72	69	.510	13
Toronto	70	73	.489	16
Baltimore	55	87	.387	30 1/2
Tampa Bay	50	93	.350	36
Central				
Cleveland	82	62	.569	—
Minnesota	76	68	.526	6
Chicago	74	70	.514	8
Detroit	67	86	.439	24 1/2
Kansas City	57	86	.399	24 1/2
West				
Seattle	104	40	.722	—
Oakland	87	57	.604	17
Anaheim	73	71	.507	31
Texas	66	78	.453	38

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
Atlanta	78	64	.549	—
Philadelphia	75	68	.525	3 1/2
New York	71	73	.493	8
Florida	68	77	.467	12 1/2
Montreal	61	82	.427	17 1/2
Central				
Houston	84	59	.587	—
St. Louis	79	64	.552	5
Chicago	78	65	.545	6
Milwaukee	63	81	.438	21 1/2
Cincinnati	58	86	.403	26 1/2
Pittsburgh	55	88	.385	29
West				
Arizona	81	62	.566	—
San Francisco	80	64	.556	1 1/2
Los Angeles	78	65	.545	3
San Diego	70	73	.489	11
Colorado	62	80	.437	18 1/2

COMPLETE RESULTS
Minnesota 3, Detroit 2; Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 1; Seattle 5, Anaheim 1; Oakland 7, Texas 1; Boston at N.Y. Yankees, ccl. rain.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs 8, Cincinnati 2; St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 0.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUAT

GOLF: LPGA State Farm Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r-midnight) on ESPN

PGA Bell Canadian Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Global Golf Highlights - Carlos Franco at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

10 YEARS AGO

ROBERT Pactolierin shot a four-under-par 67 to share the lead with Antolin Fernando in the second round of the Shell-Sime Darby Open at the Cebu Country Club in Cebu City.

Beermen, Thunder face separate rivals

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports)
5:05 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Sta. Lucia
7:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SAN MIGUEL Beer, its morale crushed into smithereens by newcomer Batang Red Bull last conference, opens defense of its PBA Governors Cup crown against opening-day winner Sta. Lucia Realty today at the PhilSports Arena.

For the past two editions of the season-ending conference, the Beermen came out as champions depending heavily on scoring machine Lamont Strothers on both occasions.

This time around, Strothers will again be at the center of things as the Beermen meet the Realtors at 5:05 p.m. The Realtors trounced the Swift Panthers, 84-78 in the opener on Saturday.

In the same breadth, Commission-

ers Cup titleholder Red Bull aims to break new ground against Purefoods later in the night as the Thunder parades a battle-tested import in Ray Tutt.

Tutt started the Thunder's winning tradition after anchoring the Photokina Marketing franchise to a third-place finish last year.

He nearly brought Red Bull to its first finals appearance had not San Miguel intervened during last year's best-of-five semifinals where the Beermen eliminated the Thunder in four games.

Tutt's pioneering efforts at winning, however, spawned enough confidence, which the Thunder exemplified in capturing their first title in only two years in the league.

And that's bad news for the Hotdogs, who are out on a limb with injuries to Andy Seigle and EJ Feihl, the only men capable of stopping mountain Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi down low.



GARY'S TEAM

Singer Gary Valenciano (far right) and the other members of the Covenant Assurance Co. Inc. whoop it up after defeating last year's title holder LS Dasma, 70-66, in overtime to capture the La Salle Greenhills Alumni Association's 2001 Bro. Dominic Berardelli Cup at the St. Benilde's Gym of LSGH. Shown are, seated, Renato Robles, Mon Ocampo, Benet Palad, Tek Faustino, Bin Ikeda and Macoy Cuisia. Standing from left, Johnny Lico, Oscar Medalla, Tonichi Caballero, Reggie Antonio, league MVP Paolo dela Concepcion, Conrad Tayco, Neil Laygo, Marvin Sioco, Earl Torres, Reggie Bautista, Noel Silvestre, Robbie Sison, Ed Arriola, Aldo Perez, Wowie Evangelista and Valenciano.

Globe soccer slated

TWELVE matches kick off the Third Globe Super Cup soccer tournament this Saturday at the PhilSports pitch in Pasig City and four other venues.

Opening ceremonies will be held at the PhilSports football grounds at 5:30 p.m. to be followed by the Group D match featuring Air Force A and UST at 6:30 p.m. in this Globe-sponsored event organized by the National Capital Region Football Association.

Expected to grace the simple inaugural rites are NCRFA president Santi Elizalde, treasurer and tournament chair Philip Hagedorn.



KARATE GOLD

Filipina karate entry Gretchen Malalad displays the gold medal she won in the SEA Games women's individual kumite (+60 kgs) last Sunday. Malalad triumphed at the expense of Indonesia's Melty Johana Kaseger. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Salvador, Alto shine in Talisay triathlon

BACOLOD City's Noel Salvador and Pasig City's national pool member Lakambini Alto scored upset wins in last Sunday's First Talisay City Invitational Triathlon.

Salvador, elevated to the national training pool on the strength of his fine showing in the 2001 Subic Bay International Triathlon, emerged from the 1.5-kilometer swim leg first, yielded the pace in the 40-km bike but regained it in the last two kilometers of the 10-km run.

Alto, on the other hand, surged ahead in the last few kilometers of the run after improving her position from the fourth position in the swim to third in the bike of the grind fired off by Senator Serge Osmeña, Rep Jose Carlos Lacson and Talisay City Mayor Anthony Lizares.

Salvador, 27, clocked two hours and 19 minutes with Alto submitting a time of 2:35, her personal best, in this one of the Talisay City's fi-

esta highlights sponsored by Athleta, Northwest Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Viva Mineral and Speedo.

The country's erstwhile No. 1 Triathlete Mark Candelaria, 30, who together with recent Macau International biathlon age group gold medalist, Abet Alon-Alon, 36, his provincemate from Laguna, joined Salvador in the lead pack most part of the race, settled for runner-up honors, 15 seconds behind.

Quezon City's national team member, Kaye Lopez whose bid for a first ever overall victory fell short by four minutes and 21 seconds despite her 18-second advantage going into the run, likewise salvaged second place.

Tom Carrasco Jr., president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, noted the huge potential of the Talisay City Invitational Triathlon organized by the Talisay City Tourism Council headed by Luci Lizares Yunque.

Tecson snares diadem

FREENCE Tecson bagged the low gross plum with a 77 while Bonjing Syap took low net honors with a 69 in the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines Invitational tournament at the west course of Wack Wack recently.

Tecson banged in four birdies to nip Art Ampaya by just a stroke for the low gross award, besting a field of 80 players who played in the 18-hole tourney launching the 2001 Philippine International Golf Show.

The sixth edition of the Golf Show, one of the biggest in Asia with the participation of at least 50 companies, will be held Oct. 5-7 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

The early sponsors for the show are Jack Nicklaus apparel, Hawaiian Tropic, Planet Sports, Srixon, Casino Filipino, Berocca, Milo Enervon Prime, Lipton Ice Tea, Taytan International, Racks, Citylite 88.3 and Earthshape.com.

Ampaya, settled for the Class A title, nipping A. Bernardino in the countback. Joeboy dela Paz edged Rolly Antonio for the Class B crown and Stevie Liao won over Dindo Blanco in Class C.

WGAP tilt

ONE hundred-thirty players will see action in today's seventh leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit sponsored by Callaway at the east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off time is 7 a.m.

Chua, Grabador lift RP swim bets

TIMMY Chua and Evan Grabador won one gold medal each for the Philippines, which also earned eight silvers and 11 bronzes, in the recent 1st Asian Age Group Swimming Championship in Hong Kong.

Chua, owner of the national record in the 50-m breaststroke, upset Alqudmani Ahmed in 2:23.61 in the 200-meter breast of the 18 and over division. The Saudi Arabian came second at 2:24.80.

"I gave my best. There was no pressure at all. Now, I've made up for my sorry performance in the last SEAG trials," said Chua, an 18-year-old Marine Engineering student at UP Diliman.

Grabador (15-17), who improved his personal best 2:14.74, clocked 2:12.60 in the 200 backstroke to beat Chinese-Taipei's Huang Chen Hsiang (2:12.66).

"I dedicate this gold to coach Ryoza Iszhikawa. He is very patient in training me and the rest of the team," said Grabador, a fourth year high school student at Lourdes School of Mandaluyong.

Other medal earners were Marjorie Pulmarit (3 silvers, 5 bronzes), John Paul Fornalejo (1 silver, 1 bronze), Karen Zayco (2 silvers), Louie Marquez (1 bronze), Melissa Canino (2 bronzes), JB Walsh (1 silver, 1 bronze) and Benjie Uy, (1 bronze). Grace Penserga, of St. Scholastica's College, added one silver in diving. Senen Bravo

Emerging rivals

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Swift Mighty Meaty to victory in 1992 and 1993.

"This modest achievement is a reflection of a lot of prayers and hard work," said low-key franchise owner George Chua. "And although the team is lacking in experience, it showed it has plenty of raw courage and discipline." The Photokina executive also cited the key role played by Best Import awardee Tony Lang who blended well with the local players in winning the coveted title.

For this year-ending conference, Red Bull will again bank on hardworking Raymond "King" Tutt, the 6-foot-4 UC-Santa Barbara scoring machine (24-ppg) in the American Big

West who sparked the Thunder to a previous best third-place finish last season. Tutt is ranged against an equally potent cast of imports headed by comebacking Lamont Strothers of San Miguel, Sta. Lucia Realty's Damian Owens, Senn Chambers of Alaska, Maurice Bell of Tanduay and Derrick Brown of Purefoods.

Also in the cast are new faces led by highly fancied former San Antonio Spurs swingman Brandon Williams of Talk N Text, formerly Mobiline, Swift's Rosell Ellis, Barangay Ginebra's Mark Jones and Asia Jones of Shell.

Aside from emerging rivals Batang Red Bull and San Miguel Beer, the other teams expected to figure prominently in the title race are Purefoods and either Talk N Text or Tanduay.

"Like the other teams, we at Red Bull are hoping to make it and advance to the semifinals," stressed Guiao, a Pampanga board member and son of the late former Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao. "Once you make the semis, anything can happen. And if we are lucky enough to win another championship, ibang usapan na iyan."

SPORTS TRIVIA. The sport of equestrian made its debut in the modern Olympic Games in 1912 in Stockholm. There are three Olympic horse sports in the three-day event, namely dressage, endurance and show jumping. In dressage, horses execute a series of complex gaits or foot movements, responding to hidden cues from the rider. The endurance event is a cross-country run over rough terrain. Horses jump at full gallop over walls and ditches. In show jumping, the horse jumps 15 minutes at a slow pace to show judges that it is still strong, balanced and agile. Olympic horses live in large, comfortable stalls and eat protein-rich meals like grains and hay. They are massaged and pampered like movie stars. To do well in equestrian, horses and riders must know and trust each other completely.

"Riders pamper their horses not just to keep them healthy, but to build the bonds of trust and affection that make the horse want to do what the riders ask," said a veteran Olympic rider. Horses in Olympic training are "athletes who work hard for living."



VINCE Hizon (right) drives past Vietnam's Le Minh Chi.

60-POINT BLOWOUT

Pinoys rout Vietnam 5

GAMES TODAY
6 p.m.—Vietnam vs Thailand (women)
8 p.m.—Indonesia vs Malaysia (men)

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippines waltzed its way to its second straight win after an overpowering 100-40 victory over hapless Vietnam in the 21st SEA basketball championship at the Malaysian Basketball Association Gym here.

The 60-point victory, which came at the heels of their overpowering 112-74 debut over Indonesia last Monday, however, should not be taken as the true

gauge of the Filipinos' strength.

"The boys have the bad habit of taking it easy when the lead gets bigger," said national team mentor Boyzie Zamora. "Every game counts and we have to do best against the zone."

Watched by members of the Filipino community in this sparkling city, the Nationals started slowly against the smaller and slower Vietnamese, 30-12, but soon found their rhythm and padded their lead.

Knowing the Philippines' advantage, Zamora experimented with his players, converting shooter Junel Mendiola as playmaker. Obviously awed by the Filipinos, the Vietnamese turned the ball countless times and fared miserably from the field as the half ended at 55-16.

Power playing Ruben de la Rosa topscored with 17 points, while Eddie Laure had another field day puncturing the hoop and emerged with 16. Others who scored in double figures were John Ferriols, Rommel Adducul and Cris Calaguio, with 12 points each.

The Nationals take a rest today before meeting the Thais in a game dubbed as the battle for the gold, unless Malaysia pulls a king-sized upset in this six-team tournament.

"Thailand remains our toughest foe," noted Zamora. **RP 100-** De la Rosa 17, Laure 16, Ferriols 12, Calaguio 12, Adducul 12, Tierra 8, Martin 8, Hizon 6, Echavez 6, Mendiola 2, Rodriguez 1, Victorero 0.

VIETNAM 40- V. Khang 10, M. Hung 9, T. Binh 6, T. Cong 4, V. Thanh 4, Gia Giap 2, D. Ni 2, M. Chi 2, N. Duc 1. Quarters: 30-12, 55-16, 79-32, 100-40.



KUALA LUMPUR 2001

RP SKED TODAY

Sept. 12

SWIMMING: 9 a.m.—Men's 50m freestyle (M. Molina), women's 200m breast (J. Guerrero), men's 200m breast (M. Molina), women's 200m free (L. Danila), men's 1500m free (C. Piccio, M. Mendoza), women's 4x100m medley relay (L. Danila, J. Guerrero, L. Dacanay, L. Ang).

ARCHERY: 8:30 a.m.—50m, qualifying for men and women, 30m, preliminary round for men and women

ATHLETICS: 9 a.m.—Hammer throw, women, final (R. Hamero), decathlon: 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400m (F. Gallenero, R. Fresno); pole vault, men, final (E. Obiena); long jump, women, final (L. Balaitan, E. Posadas); women's 100m, round 1 (L. Balaitan); men's 3000m steeplechase, final (E. Buenavista, D. Mama), men's 400m (A. Jamar, E. Candelario, J. Lozada); men's 1500m, round 1 (J. Lozada); women's 10,000m, final (C. Martes)

BADMINTON: 3 p.m.—Men's singles (K. Asuncion vs K. Sokhang, Cambodia); ladies' singles (K. Asuncion vs L. Nhung, Vietnam)

SNOOKER & BILLIARDS: 10 a.m.—Snooker singles semifinals (M. Manalo, J. Ortega); billiards singles, semifinals (R. Grandea, B. Guevarra), billiards singles, final Note: the schedule of the Filipinos will depend on their showing in matches on Sept. 11.

BOWLING: 9 a.m.—Trio, men and women (C. King, C. Suarez, B. Rivera, B. Dytoc, C. Mansilungan, B. Rey/L. del Rosario, C. Yap, J. Canare, I. Garcia, A. Valdez, L. Clutario)

BOXING: 3 p.m.—R. Galido vs Myanmar, 67 kg; A. Lerio vs Indonesia, 54 kg

EQUESTRIAN: 8 a.m.—Team, 2nd individual qualifying round, showjumping (R. Barba, D. Cojuangco, J. Santos, C. Zobel)

FENCING: 9 a.m.—Preliminary round, men's

individual sabre (W. Mendoza, E. Velez), finals

GOLF: 8 a.m.—Round 3 men (J. Pagunsan, M. Dumandan, J. Bayron, J. Zaragosa); round 2 women (R. Chico, C. Villaroman, H. Chua)

GYMNASTICS: 2 p.m.—Men's artistic gymnastics (floor exercise, pommel horse, Roman rings, horse vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar), women's artistic gymnastics (horse vault, uneven bars, balance beam, floor exercise)—R. Ramirez, R. Ramirez, B. Sy, P. Reyes, P. Reyes, P. Espiritu, M. Purruganan, A. Difunorum, A. Cruz

LAWN BOWLS: 8:30 a.m.—Women's Four, Philippines (M. Witheridge, L. Kucharsky, A. Bruce, L. Benthall) vs Singapore 2:30 p.m.—Women's Four, Malaysia vs Philippines (Witheridge, Kucharsky, Bruce, Benthall), Women's Pair, Philippines (L. Rivera-V. Greenlee) vs Singapore

PENCAK SILAT: 9 a.m.—Tanding (fighting elimination), tunggal men (finals), ganda, double, women (finals)

ROWING: 9 a.m.—Lightweight men's doubles sculls (E. Maerina/J. Rodriguez); women's coxless pairs (M. Babilonia/J. Tolentino), lightweight men's coxless four (E. Maerina, M.

Galvez, A. Amposta, J. Rodriguez, R. Tolentino)

SEPAKTAKRAW: 10 a.m.—Women's regu semifinals/finals; men's team finals Note: RP athletes' schedule depends on their showing on September 11.

SQUASH: 4 p.m.—Final, 3rd and 4th matches Note: RP athletes schedule depends on their showing in earlier rounds

SHOOTING: 8 a.m.—Women's 10m air rifle, final (R. Luis, P. Tan, L. Santiago), 25m rapid fire pistol, men, stage 2 (N. Padilla, I. Dionesia, C. Medina), 50m free rifle 3x40 men, final (J. Valdez), skeet men 50 targets, final (P. Bernardo, D. Hizon, P. Rosario)

SAILING: 11 a.m.—Races 5 and 6, International 420 (C. Tayong/M. Francisco), International 470 (R. Balladares/ R. Chavez), Mistral 1 lightweight (G. Paz), Mistral 1 heavyweight (A. Juarez)

TENNIS: 9 a.m.—Final for men and ladies' teams; first and second round for men and ladies' individual events (J. Arcilla, M. Mora III, C. Arevalo, J. Saret)

WRESTLING: 8 a.m.—69 kg, men (A. Aldanete), 53 kg, women (C. Atlano), 77 kg, men (R. Colonia)

WATER POLO: 10 a.m.—Finals Note: RP Participation depends on results of earlier matches

Athletics... (From page A20)



BALAITAN jogs at the National Stadium.

memories in SEA Games history. She missed a medal in her debut during the 1981 SEA Games in Manila but what followed was a string of triumphs in her favorite event. Muros, 16, established the SEAG mark with a winning of 6.52m in her two years later in Singapore.

What made Elma's feat more impressive was the fact that she also won golds in the 100m hurdles, heptathlon and 400m hurdles. "I never have the luxury of concentrating in a single event. But I have no regrets," said Muros-Posadas, who is proud mother to 9-year-old Klarisse.

Discipline, according to Elma, keys her longevity. "It wasn't easy. Maybe I can relax after Malaysia, but nobody can tell except the Almighty."

To make this year's SEA Games, Elma, who also coaches the University of the East athletics team, needed to hurdle Patafa's qualifying mark. She jumped 6.16m on Aug. 4 and became a last-minute entry for the Philippine team.

"Being here is a reward," said Muros-Posadas, whose personal best is 6.56 set set in the 1997 National Open.

Elma says that a jump of 6.40m should be enough to keep her lofty position, but she wouldn't mind reliving the Brunei experience. "I am a courageous woman," she said.

High spirits

"We're in high spirits," said national team coach Dario da Rosas, a former national athlete.

Left behind by the massive strides being made by its neighbors, the Philippines finished with a single gold courtesy of Muros-Posadas two years ago in Brunei. The Philippines also won six silvers and five bronzes, a showing which showed the massive dip in the quality of athletics in the country.

Patafa president Go Teng Kok has predicted a medal haul of seven golds, which will be a tremendous boost as the Philippines tries to catch vastly improved Vietnam in the overall race.

Aside from Muros-Posadas, also aiming for the golds are Roselyn Hamero (hammer throw), Emerson Obiena (pole vault), Lerma Balaitan (long jump), Eduardo Buenavista, Daud Mama (3000m steeplechase) and Christabel Martes in the 10,000m final.

Buenavista and Obiena won the silver medals in Brunei.

Balaitan will also try to make the finals and seek gold in the 100m dash. The Philippines has no entry in the men's 100m dash, 20 km walk (men) and men's shot put.

Also seeing action for the Philippine contingent are Fidel Gallenero and Robert Fresno in decathlon, John Lozada (heat one 1,500m) and Aing Jamar, Ernie Candelario and John Lozada in 400m heats.

The athletics competitions end on Sept. 16 with Allan Ballester and 1997 Jakarta silver medalist Roy Vence competing in the marathon.

Overall trophy

Hot favorite Thailand is targeting the overall trophy by winning 16 golds. It is bannered by Reanchai Seeharhong, owner of the SEAG mark of 10.26 seconds in century dash he set in Brunei. Seeharhong is favored to win the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay.

In a show of confidence, Thai mentor Supanat Ariyamongkol said: "We're not underestimating other countries, but we're fielding a team stronger than the one which saw action in Brunei."

Eduardo confident

KUALA LUMPUR—Is Eduardo Buenavista ready to step into the footsteps of his famous predecessor Hector Begego?

"Nakahanda po ako (I'm ready)," Buenavista said a day before the start of the 21st SEA athletic competitions where he will compete in the 3,000-meter men's steeplechase, an event that Begego used to dominate.

Begego last won the steeplechase in 1997 Jakarta SEA Games but was a pale shadow of his old self and was shut out of the medal honors in the Brunei edition of the meet two years later.

But Buenavista, took the silver in Brunei by placing second behind Thailand's Jirsaak,

JUNEL Perania of the Philippines (left) trades blows with Zaw Nyein of Myanmar during the men's individual kumite (under 70 kg) final in karate. Perania settled for the silver medal.

ERNIE SARMIENTO



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SPORTS

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KUALA LUMPUR 2001

MEDAL TALLY

As of 7:30 p.m., Sept. 11

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Malaysia	36	22	31	89
Thailand	22	23	26	71
Indonesia	22	18	27	67
Vietnam	16	16	24	56
Philippines	12	24	21	57
Singapore	7	8	15	30
Myanmar	6	7	19	32
Brunei	0	0	3	3
Cambodia	0	0	2	2
Laos	0	0	2	2

Athletics on

Durable Muros-Posadas leads RP bets drive

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—Athletics, centerpiece event of the 21st SEA Games, start today with the durable Elma Muros-Posadas aiming for his ninth straight long jump gold medal at the National Stadium here.

Now 34 and old enough to be a mother to some of her fiercest rivals, Muros-Posadas remains cautious of her chances, saying that only the Almighty knows whether she'll emerge triumphant in what is being described by observers as her 'final hurrah.'

Muros's last shot at glory was supposed to be two years ago in Brunei. In a story which is now part of the

country's sporting lore, Elma needed a magnificent final jump of 6.34 meters to snatch the gold from Vietnamese upstart Nguyen Bic Van.

Bic Van is still around, but the biggest threat, according to husband and coach Jojo, is another Vietnamese—Phan Thi Thu Lan. The other Filipino bet is Lerma Balautan, bronze medalist in Brunei.

Others entered are Vilalvanh of Laos and the Thailand pair of Wacharee Rittiwat and Warunee Kittihirun.

"I know that everything will end. God will decide what will happen," said Muros-Posadas at the Crown Princes hotel here. "I can only do my best."

The presence of Muros-Posadas evokes sweet

ATHLETICS/A19

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Housemaid, 16, serves rice with rat poison A22
Bare Eye: Inevitably, another tired diagnosis for RP A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Housewife raped, stabbed, slashed A22
Beds, refs fished out of Pasay City floodways A22

'Padlock' Mehan parking project-DENR

Green group urges recycling and composting, not landfill

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND NELSON F. FLORES

THE RESIDENTS of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town in Rizal are not the only ones opposing the proposed dumpsite in their area. An international environmental organization yesterday

also questioned the landfill's costly price tag, saying the funds for the landfill should instead be used to acquire recycling and composting facilities.

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, a non-government coalition of 151 groups from 43 countries, said the proposed 100-hectare

GREEN GROUP/A22



ABALOS

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND JEROME ANING

POLICE assistance will be sought to implement the order to close the controversial parking facility project at the Mehan Garden in Manila following the city government's refusal to honor a cease and desist order the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued earlier.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday directed the DENR NCR

executive director to take all actions, including police assistance, to "close and padlock" the P48.5 Park N Ride project.

"We have the law and we are operating within the legal bounds," Alvarez said.

He said he expected Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to challenge the closure order in court.

"If the city government of Manila insists on continuing the construction despite our orders implementing the law, then we will impose the necessary sanctions," Alvarez said. "I have fought for the rule of law all my life and I have never wavered."

Earlier, Atienza challenged the DENR to sue him for allowing the Makati City-based Park N Ride Inc. to continue building the parking facility at the back of the Metropolitan Theater.

Atienza described the CDO as "unfair," saying it was based on a "wrong premise and faulty appreciation" of facts by the DENR.

He said records of the National Historical Institute showed the facility does not fall within the Mehan Garden.

But Alvarez maintained that "there is more than substantial evidence on record that the Mehan Gardens is a historical

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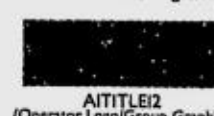
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Inevitably, another tired diagnosis for RP

KUALA LUMPUR—Listen, please. Our sports officials insist that the Philippines is competing here to erase a dismal showing in Brunei two years ago. The singular goal is to get up, wriggle farther from the bottom and improve on the forgettable fifth-overall finish in the 1999 Southeast Asian Games.

Well, let our sports leaders say what they want to say.

Truth is, there's nothing particularly new. We're in the 21st Southeast Asian Games mainly for another diagnosis.

The Philippine contingent is here allegedly to bare newfound strength and power.

Sorry, but the prognosis, as of yesterday, was not exactly promising.

The main ills, it has so far appeared, have not been remedied, despite the frantic tries at recovery and rehabilitation.

Thank God karate-do delivered two savior golds on Monday.

Had it not been for these un-

expected feats, the Philippines would've woken up stuck in sick bed, with a fat zero to display in the gold medal column.

You see, the sorry slip to fifth overall in the Brunei Games two years ago already confirmed the utterly deteriorated state of Philippine sports.

The country next returned empty-handed from the Sydney Olympics last year.

There had been a rush-rush bid to make up, as alleged by national sports leaders.

But, so far, no marked improvement has been shown in current results.

In fact, what has been amazing was the instant surge of Vietnam, which RP had barely edged when the latter slipped to a shameful fifth in Brunei.

You see, in this biennial test of stock, lineage and upbringing among Southeast Asian neighbors, it's the gold that matters most.

At the start of action Tuesday, the Philippines stood no better at fifth, a very shaky notch ahead of Singapore. Both countries had six

BARE EYE

Recall Trinidad



golds, but RP enjoyed the slight edge based on more silver medals.

The main problem for RP is, of course, Vietnam. After having sensationally played second to Malaysia at the start of the action here, Vietnam remained powerfully ahead of the Philippines early Tuesday with a 10-6 lead in the gold medal race.

And, naturally, apprehensive Filipino sports leaders were praying that Vietnam, which would host the next SEA Games in 2003, has already exhausted its gold medal sources early.

Let's also pray that these prayers are heard. Because, as things have started to appear, the Philippines may be here not only for a tired diagnosis of age-old sporting afflictions.

Don't you think the RP delegation is in this tree-filled, dignified, progressive capital also to hope and pray, the harder the better, that other countries like Vietnam and Singapore, its new rivals, have not improved vastly out there in the competition fields?

Look, the hoard of gold medals, if bulk this could be properly called, had been predicted to be mined in billiards, boxing, the martial disciplines of wushu, karate-do, judo, taekwondo and allegedly athletics.

Basketball? Well, no problem here. So far, with the quality of cage competition here, a collegiate selection from Manila would have been equal to the task of defending the championship.

Boxing lost a defending gold medalist in pinweight Juanito Maquiguan on Day One of action in Seremban, a rustic wonderland an hour away by car from this sensational capital.

Two other Filipino pugs next dropped their matches, before lightweight Larry Semillano stopped his foe to sort of break the ice for the

RP simon-pures.

So far, though, with the strong signs of another Thai dominance, the RP fighters may have to surpass themselves if they are to deliver the four golds originally hoped for from the group.

Yes, there's another possible strong source of medals. This is athletics which, according to drum-beaters back home, could deliver as many as half a dozen golds.

But what's this we heard that this medal forecast in track and field had been based on recent Filipino sorties to neighboring Southeast Asian battlefields like Vietnam itself?

Look, the moment of truth is here. So let's also pray that Filipino sports officials, mainly athletics chief Go Teng Kok, had not been deluded about the golds by their hosts who obviously played meek and extra hospitable during those recent mock-up meets.

Gold medals, in case you don't know, could also be bagged here by those who excel at hide-and-seek.

Army probes cadet's death during training

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE RESERVE Command of the Philippine Army has ordered an investigation of the death of a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) cadet during military training in Pangasinan last Sunday.

The Army formed a fact-finding body to investigate the death of cadet 3rd class Samuel Rodico of the Luna Colleges ROTC around 9:30 a.m. during training in Barangay Rabon, San Fabian, Pangasinan, said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta.

A stray bullet hit Rodico in the right chest and he died while being brought to the Pangasinan Regional Medical Center, military officials said.

Rodico was participating in a field training exercise conducted by the 105th Community Defense Center in Pangasinan East from Sept. 7 to 9.

Welson Chua, father of slain University of Sto. Tomas ROTC cadet Mark Welson Chua and head of the newly formed Bantay ROTC organization, said Rodico's death was expected to fan the growing clamor for the abolition of the ROTC.

Militant student groups and other sectors could use the incident as another glaring reason to have the ROTC program scrapped once and for all, he said.

METROBRIEFS

Aguilar slay suspect falls

POLICE on Friday afternoon arrested Eduardo San Miguel, a suspect in the killing of a brother of Las Piñas City Mayor Virgilio Aguilar, in Imus, Cavite. They said that according to witnesses, San Miguel, a former police inspector and an alleged drug dealer, was the one who shot dead barangay chair Albert Aguilar on March 15 in front of the CAA barangay hall. San Miguel was apparently angered by Aguilar's campaign against illegal drugs in his barangay, police said.

Nelson F. Flores

Fire melts Slimmers

ABOUT P5 million in gym equipment and other items were destroyed by fire at the Slimmers World branch in Greenhills, San Juan Monday night. No one was reported injured. SFO1 Eduardo Antonio said the fire, reportedly caused by faulty wiring, started in the gym on the 27th floor of Atlanta Towers on Annapolis Street. An investigator said there might have been people in the gym when the fire broke out but they were able to escape in time. Agnes Donato

Fire bureau loses P100,000

BUREAU of Fire Protection (BFP) National Capital Region budget officer Chief Insp. Jesus Castillo said she lost P100,000 in cash intended for the renovation of the bureau's Quezon City office. Castillo told police she left the cash in a desk drawer in their office, which would undergo renovation, in Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Quezon City. When she came to work Monday, the money was already missing, she said. She said Senior Insp. Danilo de la Pena, finance officer for the NCR, gave her the money on Sept. 5 for the renovation work.

Philip C. Tubeza

6 drug suspects rounded up

POLICE on Monday arrested six people, including two women, in separate drug buy-bust operations in Malabon City: Pepito Salameda, 47, and Geoffrey Garcia, 23, both of Barangay Tanong, in nearby Barangay Catmon, reportedly while selling 15 sachets of shabu to an agent posing as a buyer. The same team of anti-drug agents arrested Antonio Olivarez, 35, Edwin Madjus, 23, both of Barangay Catmon, Bernadette Perez, 18, of Barangay Tinajeros, and Lorena Enriquez, 31, of Barangay Concepcion, who reportedly had 30 grams of shabu.

Christian V. Esguerra

Ex-cop busted

FORMER Mandaluyong policeman Juanito Marcelino, 43, who was dismissed from the service for alleged drug peddling, was arrested in a sting operation in the same city Monday night. PO1 Apolinario Atienza said Marcelino was caught receiving a marked P500 bill in exchange for two plastic sachets of shabu. Police records showed that the suspect went AWOL in 1995 after being linked to drug pushing.

Agnes Donato

Housemaid, 16, serves rice with rat poison

BY JEROME ANING

FIVE members of a family in Tondo, Manila, including three children aged 4, 7 and 8 years, are in critical condition after they were allegedly poisoned by their 16-year-old maid on Monday noon.

The housemaid, a native of Davao City, is working at the Peñaflorida household in Galangin, Tondo, according to

Supt. Gil de Castro, Western Police District Station 7 commander.

De Castro identified the five victims, currently confined at the Philippine General Hospital, as teacher Blessilyn Peñaflorida, 39; her children Sharra, 7; John Vincent, 8; and Guialayn, 4; and her sister-in-law, clerk Vivian Castillo, 25.

De Castro said in his report that the housemaid intentionally served the Peñafloridas and

Castillo boiled rice laced with Racumin rat poison for lunch Monday.

The victims were brought to the hospital after experiencing dizziness, nausea and abdominal pains.

Police arrested the maid shortly after the victims, on their way to the hospital, told neighbors that they suspected her of poisoning them.

The girl is detained at WPD Station 7 on Jose Abad Santos

Avenue and will be charged with multiple frustrated murder.

In an interview over radio station dwIZ, the girl admitted poisoning the Peñafloridas. She said she has been the family's maid for three months but she was underpaid, over-worked and maltreated.

"They're too much," she said. "I'm only being paid P1,500 a month to do the laundry, clean the house, cook, iron the clothes and babysit,

but they are cruel to me."

But in an interview with reporters at the jail, she denied she deliberately wanted to murder the family.

She also had a different version of the incident.

"While I was cooking, I was being ordered around to do this and that, and I got very confused," she said. "I didn't know what I was doing. I may have put the poison in the rice without knowing it."

Beds, refs fished out of Pasay City floodways

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WHOLE refrigerators and mattresses. Name it, Metro Manila's drainage canals have it.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong yesterday said workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways have retrieved tons of solid waste materials that have collected and piled up at several pumping stations in Metro Manila.

At the pumping stations in Libertad and Tripa de Gallina in Pasay City, two of the largest in Metro Manila, conveyors hauled voluminous piles of trash, from ordinary plastic bags to refrigerators and even mattresses.

Datumanong said the clean-up of the pumping stations was prompted by complaints of residents living nearby who reported foul stench emanating from the floodways.

Pumping stations are built to remove floodwaters. The 15 large stations pump an estimated 227.49 cubic meters per second of water to mitigate flooding.

Datumanong instructed Salvador Pleyto, National Capital Region director, to remove solid wastes that have clogged other pumping stations.

The Libertad pumping station, built in 1978 at the reclamation area along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, has six horizontal axial flow pumps capable of removing 210 drums per second of water from the Buendia, Libertad and Edsa outfalls.

The Tripa de Gallina pumping station, which serves Pasay City, Makati City and Fort Bonifacio, has eight horizontal axial flow pumps and two submersible axial pumps with a total pumping capacity of 290 drums per second.

Housewife raped, stabbed, slashed

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A 26-YEAR-OLD housewife is fighting for her life after a drunk and allegedly drug-crazed man raped her Monday in Quezon City.

Not contented with ravishing her, the unidentified suspect also stabbed her once and slashed her 33 times.

The armed man abused the woman inside her home in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, said investigator PO2 Roldan Daplat of the Batasan Hills police station.

The woman described the suspect as short, having "a long face," drunk, in his 30s, and having the menacing red eyes of a drug-crazed addict.

Green group . . .

(From page A21)

permanent landfill in Lukutang Malaki, Rodriguez is "a bad move for the economy."

Gaia information officer Manny C. Calanzo said a huge investment is needed "to construct an up-to-date facility large enough to handle Metro Manila's daily waste generation."

Calanzo said resources that could be reused and recycled are "buried rather than recycled and reused."

But Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday denied Calanzo's claim that Metro Manila's total daily waste output of 6,000 tons would be dumped in the new landfill.

Abalos said only about 30 percent of the total waste output would be dumped in Rodriguez.

"Only the waste that cannot be recycled or composted by MMDA recycling and composting plants will be dumped in the landfill," he said. He said the landfill would open six months from now.

Calanzo also hit environment officials for issuing an environmental compliance certificate for the other landfill in Lukutang Munti, San Isidro, also in Rodriguez.

Calanzo said there was no transparency in the proceedings because

The victim was still in critical condition yesterday afternoon at a Quezon City hospital, PO2 Daplat added.

He said the woman was home alone when the suspect struck around 10:30 p.m. The victim's husband was away at work.

Daplat said the culprit barged into the woman's house and pinned her to the floor in the living room. The woman tried to resist but the stranger was too strong and he was able to rape her.

She said that to her horror, the rapist pulled out a knife and slashed her in different parts of the body while he abused her.

All she could do was hope and

pray that she would survive the nightmare, the woman told Daplat.

She said the man also stabbed her in the right side of the body.

Daplat said the woman pretended to be dead after the rapist satisfied his lust. The victim soon heard her mother-in-law calling her name from outside the house.

The woman said she suddenly called out for help and shouted at her mother-in-law to force her way into the house.

The suspect panicked and escaped through the back door, she said.

The mother-in-law brought the victim to the East Avenue Medical Center, where she was still fighting for her life yesterday afternoon.



PROTEST against the Rodriguez landfill knows no age, as this little resident with a placard shows.

DENNIS SABANGAN

the DENR did not arrange a public hearing before the ECC was issued.

But Environment Secretary Hershon Alvarez yesterday said the local government need not secure a DENR ECC for the project since it is merely converting an

"open dump" into a "controlled dump" as mandated by law.

"They are not yet constructing a sanitary landfill but a controlled disposal facility or a controlled dumpsite upon the request of Mayor Cuervo," Alvarez said.

'Padlock' Mehan parking project . . .

(From page A21)

and archaeological site and that the Park N Ride project is within the Mehan Gardens.

The DENR issued the CDO after the NHI presented documents showing the project is within the historic Mehan Garden. The NHI said that as a historical site, the Mehan Garden could not be modified nor developed without the proper certification from the NHI as prescribed by law.

In his closure order, Alvarez recalled the June 25 environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by his department and suspended it until Park N Ride Inc. has secured a

written permit from the NHI chair as prescribed by law.

He also ordered Park N Ride to pay a fine of P50,000 per day from Aug. 22, when it did not stop the construction of the parking building after a notice of violation was issued to the firm.

On Sept. 4, Alvarez made a surprise inspection of the site and caught engineers, foremen and project managers in the thick of construction in defiance of the CDO and the notice of violation.

Yesterday, conservationists hit Mayor Atienza for supporting the Park N Ride project.

"We wonder why the mayor is

taking up the cudgels for the Park N Ride when it is a private corporation and it was the one which applied for the building permit and an environmental compliance certificate," conservationist and historical researcher Tina Testa said.

She said Atienza could not cite local autonomy as his defense in continuing the construction, adding that PD 260 and PD 1505 "are still in effect."

Atienza had said that a city council ordinance had withdrawn the site from public use and that the council had also approved the 25-year lease the mayor had entered into with Park N Ride.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 12, 2001
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Col 3:1-11
Lk 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said, "Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours.

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now. Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

Reversal of fortunes is the theme of our gospel reading. It consoles the unfortunate. Imagine those who hunger now will be satisfied, those who are weeping will rejoice and so on. So the poor and the needy must not lose hope. It is just a matter of time before they too will experience contentment. The theme warns the complacent. Jesus here appears to be a kill joy. How dare he say those who are full will go hungry, those who laugh now will weep and so on. Well, as a prophet, just as Jesus shakes the minds of those who are desperate and challenges them to be more optimistic, he too sternly warns those who are too confident and overly secure in their status.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—The Information in the criminal case for murder alleged the presence of the aggravating circumstances of evident premeditation, abuse of superior strength and nighttime. In the criminal cases for frustrated murder, the Informations alleged the presence of evident premeditation and treachery. In all three cases, the lower court correctly ruled that there was no aggravating circumstance of evident premeditation. Indeed, there is no evidence showing (a) the time when accused-appellants determined to commit the crime; (b) acts manifestly indicating that they had clung to their determination; and (c) a sufficient lapse of time between the determination and the execution to allow them opportunity to reflect upon the consequences of their acts and to allow their conscience to overcome the resolution of their will. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606, 138607, January 16, 2001]

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PARAHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/VALENTINE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PARAHAS ANG LABAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BANYO QUEEN
B	MANO MANO 2
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	835-20-78 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ASIAN CHILDREN ARTS FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PARAHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-4	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-5	SHREK
CINEMA-6	ENEMY AT THE GATES

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WINASAK NA PANGARAP
CINEMA-2	STONE
CINEMA-4	BOBOT

A 23

MCKNIGHT. Performs at Hard Rock

McKnight holds live showcase

BRIAN McKnight performs in a live showcase at Hard Rock Café in Makati tomorrow night, Sept. 13, to promote his latest album, "Superhero," released in the local music market under MCA Universal.

McKnight is again making waves on the airwaves via the first single culled from the album, "Love of My Life."

There are many words to describe Brian McKnight—singer, songwriter, arranger, producer. Perhaps the word that best sums up Brian is one that is simple, but frequently misused—musician.

In an age of fly-by-night celebrities and flashes in the pan, McKnight has maintained an artistic excellence in his works for popular artists from Quincy Jones to Boyz II Men.

McKnight's musicianship combined with all of his other attributes are showcased in "Superhero."

His promo tour, which has been anticipated by local fans since last year, is made possible through the sponsorship of Wave 89.1, Sonera Zed, Home Cable, Mossimo, Skechers Collections, Electronic Depot and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

To enable everyone to watch his live showcase at Hard Rock, a free invitation is given for every purchase of McKnight's "Superhero" album at Music One located at Quezon Avenue, Glorietta (Makati) and SM Megamall.

McKnight is also scheduled to sign autographs of authentic copies of sold "Superhero" CDs during his public showcase at SM South Mall in Las Piñas on Friday, Sept. 14, 4 p.m.

McKnight has popularized a string of hits that include "Back at One," "One Last Cry," "6,8,12," "Anytime," "Win" and "Crazy Love." The songs earned platinum awards for him.

'Rosebud' on ANC

FORMER undercover agent, Mary "Rosebud" Ong unravels herself in Private Conversations with Boy Abunda, 9 to 10 tonight on ANC News Channel 21.

"Rosebud," the primary witness in the Victor Corpus exposé on Senator Lacson's alleged money laundering and illegal drugs involvement, intimates in a tete-a-tete with host Boy Abunda the real "Rosebud" apart from what the audience knew of her.

Abunda digs deeper into the life of "Rosebud" as a double agent.

"Rosebud" also talks about her being a mother of two boys and as a lover.

Stars' lucky breaks

EARLY in their careers, movie actors get a number of breaks that enable them to sequentially go from "extra" to "bit" then cameo roles, from supporting to costarring parts, to "shared lead" roles, then finally to "solo" stardom. Which lucky breaks definitively "made" some of our biggest stars today?

Keanu Reeves knew he wanted to be an actor by the time he had finished grade school. That's why he enrolled in Toronto's High School for the Performing Arts. Despite his solid training, however, true success on the big screen continued to elude him for years.

He did get noticed in "River's Edge" (1987) and "The Prince of

Pennsylvania" (1988) and impressed some directors with his ability to do both drama and comedy.

But he first made his definitive mark as a star with the box-office success of the wacky comedy, "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" (1989). His most substantial thespic triumph was in "My Own Private Idaho" (1991).

But it wasn't until he did "Speed" (in 1994) that Reeves became the young male star to beat in Hollywood. And the "Matrix" series of films is expected to lift him up to the superstar level in the next few years.

For her part, Sharon Stone eased her way in to the world of show business by winning a beauty contest and acting in many TV commer-

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

cials in the '70s. Then she moved to Hollywood and won her first small role in "Stardust Memories" (1980).

Over the next few years, she made a number of mediocre films—including "Police Academy 4!"

Her first big break came when she was cast opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Total Recall" (1990). By that time, she had gained

a reputation for playing explicit roles.

The following year, she became a really big sensation when she did a key scene in the controversial "Basic Instinct," without benefit of underwear.

That scene and its attendant notoriety has hounded her to this day, despite her having proven that she's a gifted actress in several of her starrers.

Finally, Jodie Foster began her career as a child star with a similarly controversial role, although she kept her clothes on. The film was "Taxi Driver" (1976) and Jodie was cast in the role of a young prostitute.

The role led to her first Oscar nomination, but it "branded" her with an amoral image that she had a hard time shaking off in subse-

quent movies.

She was "rescued" by Oscar awards for her depiction of a rape victim in "The Accused" (1988) and an FBI agent in "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991). It was the latter movie that made her an important star, because she proved that she could hold her own in her scenes with her brilliant costar, Anthony Hopkins.

That success also led to producers agreeing to hire her as a director, thanks to the heightened popularity and bankability as a gifted screen personality. Her first directorial effort, "Little Man Tate" (1991) didn't disappoint, but Jodie has still been busier as an actress than as a director.

Also on Sunday

NOT TOO long ago, the popular quiz show, "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire," added Saturday to its three original nights on the tube (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday). Well, the show has become such a runaway winner with viewers that, starting last Sept. 9, it also added Sunday to its telecasting schedule. Nothing succeeds like success!

To join the show as contestant, dial 1-908-1-000-000, the Premium Phone Service provided by PLDT. Calls are charged P10 per minute and charging starts once the Interactive Voice Response System is activated. Access to this number is open to PLDT landlines with National Direct Dialing features.

'Jazz at the CCP' presents David Benoit with the PPO

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, Crossover 105.1 and Rado of Switzerland will stage a special concert, "Jazz at the CCP," Oct. 6, 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater.

It will feature the musical talents of renowned contemporary jazz artist David Benoit and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Ruggero Barbieri.

Benoit is known for his top-selling contemporary jazz releases that include "Heavier Than Yesterday," "Stages" and "Can You Imagine" among others.

His last visit to the Philippines was in 1991, when he headlined three performances at the CCP with a 24-piece orchestra.

"Jazz at the CCP" tickets are now available at Ticketworld Outlets and CCP box-office.

For inquiries, call 891-5610 or 832-1125, local 1409.

The concert is also sponsored by Globe Telecoms, Northwest Airlines and Hyatt Regency Manila.

Mall tour

SANDWICH goes on a mall tour to promote their second album, "Four-Track Mind."

Sandwich is actually not new in the music scene. They have been together for three years now and have released two albums in the span of their three-year career.

Their debut album, "Grip Stand Throw," released in 1999, spawned the hit singles "Jetlag," "Sakyan," "R2D2" and the rock anthem "Butterfly Carnival."

The album earned for Sandwich the 1999 NU Rock Awards for best new artist and best song.

The group is composed of Raimund Marasigan on guitars and

vocals, Myrene Academia on bass, Diego Castillo on guitars, Mike Dizon on drums and Marc Abaya on guitars and vocals.

Sandwich brings "Four-Track Mind" to SM Cebu on Sept. 14, SM Iloilo on Sept. 15, SM Pampanga on Sept. 21, Robinsons

Imus on Sept. 22, SM Southmall on Sept. 23, SM Bacoor on Sept.

28, Ever Commonwealth on Sept. 29, SM Fairview on Sept. 30 and SM Manila on Oct. 5. All shows start 4 p.m.

"Four-Track Mind" is available on CDs and cassettes under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Broadway classics

LISTEN to your favorite Broadway classics on all Wednesdays of September at the Greenbelt Mall.

Robert Seña performs Sept. 12, Pinky Amador on Sept. 19 and Jenine Desiderio on Sept. 26. Show starts 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Captain's Bar

AFTER a long while, Gary Valenciano is back at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental where he performs in "Crossover Presents," tomorrow night, Sept. 13.

Joining Gary in this special performance are witty comic Jon Santos, accompanied by Lorrie Ilustre and vocal group The Opera, plus session musicians Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Ric Mercado on guitar and Roy Mercado on drums, under the superb musical direction of Gerard Salonga.

Gary will perform songs of every artist who has played a major role in his career, such as Al Jarreau, Michael Jackson, George Benson, James Ingram and Stevie Wonder.

"Crossover Presents" is not your



CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Promising talents from all over Asia will be presented in the first "Anak-Anak Asia: Asian Children's Arts Festival (ACAF 2001)," a 10-day festival to be held simultaneously in Mandaluyong City, Marikina and Laguna. ACAF opens Sept. 15, 7 p.m. at the Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 1, with a gala performance of "Hatol ng Guhit na Bilog," featuring the Dulaang Sipat Lawin, the resident theater company of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), lead agency of the festival. From Sept. 16 to 22, the mall's Cinema 1, Stageworx and the Grand Atrium will be a playhouse of arts

and performances by young talents from the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia. Present during the launch at Shangri-La Plaza Mall are: (from left) National Commission for Culture and the Arts executive director Virgilio Almario, Shangri-La Plaza Mall executive vice president and general manager Lala Fojas, Friends of PHSA president Boots Anson-Roa, Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando, CCP chair Baltazar Endriga, CCP president Nestor Jardin, PHSA executive director Fernando Josef and Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos.

usual concert series. It promotes a kind of entertainment that is not only original and rare but typifies the essence and music of the station; 105.1 Crossover.

The concert is presented by Gentxt from Globe Handyphone, Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard and Bayfresh Haven, with First Life, Advil and DPC Directories Phils. Corp.

It is supported in part by Café Puro Jade Blend, Imarflex, IBM, Rexona and Mega Magazine.

For ticket inquiries, call Mandarin at 750-8888 or Ticket World at 891-5610. Or tune in to 105.1 Crossover for a chance get free invitations.



PRESENTERS and partners for the concert, "Jazz at CCP": (from left) CCP chair Baltazar Endriga, CCP president Nestor Jardin, Mareco Broadcasting Corp.-Crossover 105.1 president and COO Louie Villar Jr. and Admix Inc. president and CEO Angelito Pagayon, representing Rado of Switzerland.



SANDWICH. Promotes their second album "Four-Track Mind."

ABS-CBN PRIMETIME COMBO-NALO

ITO ANG JACKPOT COMBINATION NINYO GABI-GABI SA TV!

WEDNESDAY-COMBO-NALO

7:00 PM
Ang top-rating evening habit ng buong bayan.
PANGAKO SA 'YO

8:30 PM
Opo, makakapiling mo na siya luwag gab! Saan na kaya hahantong ang pag-ibig nila ni Miguel?
CAMILA New Time

7:30 PM
May puwang pa kaya si Benjie sa puso ni Angeline?
SA DULO NG WALANG HANGGAN

9:00 PM
Hubaran natin si Adan! The naughtiest comedy trio in town shows us what it really takes to be a man. With DOMINIC OCHOA, RICO YAN, MARVIN AGUSTIN & AI-AI DE LAS ALAS.
WHATAMEN Premieres Tonight!

8:00 PM
Panibagong hadlang sa pagmamahalang Patricia at Jordan.
SA PUSO KO, IINGATAN KA

8:30 PM
Makalotohanang courtroom drama.
YOUR HONOR

Ang Wednesday winning combo na swak na swak sa taste ninyo!

SURE WIN KA DITO!

At kilalanin ang babang babag sa mukha ng telenovela ALICIA. Ngayong 11:30 am!

THEATRICAL

REVIEW

Award-winning composer and musical director Ryan Cayabyab presents Koro Kuckoo, a multi-talented ensemble of actors, singers and dancers in a new theatrical review, Sept. 19 at Onstage in Greenbelt. In Koro Cockoo, Cayabyab plays the piano for the theater stalwarts who will take audiences down to memory lane. The show will feature music from original Cayabyab musicals, Broadway and West End favorites. Koro Cockoo is composed of Eladio Pamaran, Jun Ofrasio, Lito Villareal, Melanie Dujunco, Mio Infante, Roden Araneta, Sheila Francisco and Sweet Plantado. The show is a production of Madness Entertainment, directed by Freddie Santos.



FREESTYLE AT NTH DEGREE

Freestyle will hold a special one-night show at Nth Degree Bar in Adriatico St., Malate, Manila (across Manila Midtown Hotel), 9 tonight. The band will dish out a repertoire of R&B, standard and pop tunes. The show will also feature fast-rising band, Seven Part Invention. For ticket inquiries, call 450-8394.

Former, current Quezon City pols go back to show biz

DINGDONG Avanzado admits he was disappointed when he lost his bid for reelection as councilor of Quezon City's 3rd district.

"But I'm not bitter," Dingdong allows. "I've learned to accept defeat. We have a very unstable political situation so I might as well return to show biz."

Dingdong says his three-year stint in the Quezon City council has been a learning experience for him.

"I can handle the intrigues in show biz, but politics is totally different," he grants. "The worst thing said about me was that I was not doing anything in the council."

"In politics, your enemy tends to take things personally. I'll take show biz over politics anytime."

Dingdong has not been fortunate, though, to be given another chance to serve in the council for a second term. But he is not totally giving up politics.

"I'm keeping my options open," says the 33-year-old Dingdong. "I can run in Iloilo, where my mom, **Carina Veloso Flores**, is now the mayor of the town of Oton. I can also run in Siquijor, where my dad, **Fidelito Avanzado**, is also mayor."

Like most show biz stars who lost during the last elections, Dingdong has decided to move on and resume his show biz career. He returns to the live performance scene through a bar

tour series, "Up Close," that kicks off Sept. 15 at Nth Degree along M. Adriatico st., Malate.

"Up Close" is his first concert series after his three-year stint as councilor. Dingdong himself conceptualized the show which he will also direct.

After Nth Degree, "Up Close" goes to Hard Rock Café (Sept. 20), Virgin Café (Oct. 9) and Ratsky's Malate (Oct. 23).

In his 14-year career in show biz, Dingdong has had hits like "Tatlong Beinte Singko," "Maghihintay Sa 'Iyo,'" "Basta't Kasama Kita" and "Wish I Could."

His latest album, "Recall," is bannered by the carrier single, "You Should Know By Now."

After the bar tour, Dingdong will record two songs for the Christmas album to be released by Star Records. He joins his wife **Jessa Zaragoza** in the stable of artists of ABS-CBN's recording arm.

Next month, Dingdong will perform in the "Himig Handog sa Kabataan Jam TV," the songwriting composition launched by ABS-CBN. He will interpret the original entry, "Si Eddie," written by **Lanie Macaraeg** and **Luchie Pomareda**.

Dingdong will also direct Jessa's solo concert, "Mesmerize," Nov. 20 at Music Museum. In the same month, Dingdong will fly to Japan for a concert series. On Feb. 14, he

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



teams up with his wife for a Valentine concert in a major venue.

Dingdong and Jessa are now furnishing their new town house at the Golf Hills Terraces in Old Balara, Quezon City.

"It's been wonderful," says Dingdong of married life. "Every now and then, we still discover something new about each other. There have been constant revelations. It's different when you wake up and there's someone beside you."

Vice Mayor Bistek

WHILE Dingdong is taking time out from politics, **Herbert Bautista** is back in the political ballgame as Quezon City vice mayor.

Herbert had a controversial loss in his mayoral bid in 1998, when **Mel Mathay** became Quezon City mayor. Herbert was "jobless" for three years, but he has learned to forgive and move on.

The actor-comedian also returns to show biz by way of a role in a new sitcom, "Mary d' Potter," to

premiere on Saturday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Herbert is grateful to **Maricel Soriano** for paving the way for his TV comeback. The two were mainstays of the now-defunct kiddie gag show, "Kaluskos Musmos."

"I started getting in touch with Maricel two years ago, after we had a reunion of 'Kaluskos Musmos' regulars," Herbert offers. "When I learned that 'Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis' would fold up, I sent her a text message that if there was a small role in a new sitcom, please consider me."

Herbert is also thankful that ABS-CBN allowed him to be part of the sitcom despite his political career. He was last seen on TV as cohost of "The Sharon Cuneta Show," also on ABS-CBN. His last sitcom appearance was "Bistek," on IBC 13. The show was a spin-off of his character on another sitcom, "2 + 2," which starred **Vic Sotto** and **Dina Bonnevie**.

"I heard ABS-CBN does not want to hire politicians anymore," Herbert says. "That's why **Joey (Marquez)** and **Anjo (Yllana)** moved to the other station. But I'm glad that ABS-CBN gave me a chance to return to TV."

In "Mary d' Potter," Herbert plays **Kuling**, Mary's next-door neighbor. Far from being a helpful



AVANZADO, "Wonderful" married life with Jessa



BAUTISTA, Joins the cast of new ABS-CBN sitcom

friend, however, **Kuling** intends to prove that Mary is a witch. He lives with his blabbermouth wife **Jessa (Izza Ignacio)** and their precocious son **Buknoy (Yuuki Kadooka)**.

Before his first taping day, Herbert watched tapes of movies and TV shows of current comedians such as **Ogie Alcasid**, **Janno Gibbs** and **Bayani Agbayani**.

"I felt that I lost touch when it comes to comedy," Herbert explains. "But when I saw the tapes, it seems that nothing much has changed. The brand of Pinoy comedy is still the same."

Also in the cast of **Mary d' Potter**

are **Serena Dalrymple**, **Meryll Soriano**, **Nova Villa**, **Mel Martinez** and **Mel Kimura**. The sitcom is directed by **Johnny Manahan**.

Herbert, who started in show biz when he was only 10, admits he is reviving his acting career for his personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

"As far as my political career is concerned, I've proven a lot of things to myself for the public," Herbert says. "I sacrificed so many years in show biz to be able to study and prepare myself for politics."

"This time, I want to resurrect my show biz career and do what I used to do. This is for myself."

Top winner in Venice is a Cannes favorite

VENICE—"Monsoon Wedding," director **Mira Nair**'s vision of an elaborate wedding in India, won top honors Saturday night at the Venice Film Festival with the Golden Lion award for best film.

"L'Emploi du Temps (The Use of Time)," by French director **Laurent Cantet**, a true story of a man who resorts to murder to keep alive a fictitious

life he has created for himself, won the night's second Lion in a new competition category of Cinema of the Present.

"Monsoon Wedding," which was a favorite at the Cannes Film Festival and also Venice, was shot in a month using hand-held cameras and depicts a colorful and musical wedding in India's Punjab state.

"This one is for India, my beloved

India, my continuing inspiration," **Nair** told the audience as she held the small Golden Lion statuette. She called the film "nothing but a testament to life."

The festival, which had only boasted a few big name celebrities during the week, was noticeably thin on the glam front Saturday night without top draw **Nicole Kidman**, who left days ago.

But **Johnny Depp** stayed through the end of the festival and screened his film "From Hell," which was attended by Princess **Caroline** of Monaco and her husband, the ANSA news agency said.

The 58th annual Venice festival's grand jury prize went to "Hundstage," by **Ulrich Seidl**. Iranian director **Babak Payami** won best director for the Iranian-Italian production "Secret Ballots."

The jury awarded **Alfonso Cuaron** best screenplay for "Y tu Mama Tambien, (And Your Mother Too)," a box office hit in Mexico about friendship and sensuality, albeit one told with extremely graphic images and language.

Italian actors picked up the best actor and actress categories.

Luigi Lo Cascio won for "Luce dei miei Occhi (Light of My Eyes)," about a lonely young man and his obsession with a single mother.

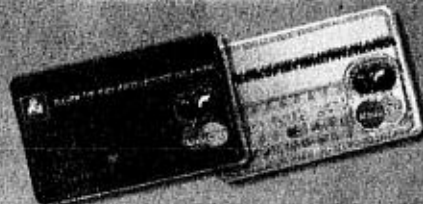
Best actress went to Italian **Sandra Ceccarelli** for her role in the same film by **Giuseppe Piccioni**, whose last film, "Out of This World," was Italy's 1999 foreign Oscar candidate. AP



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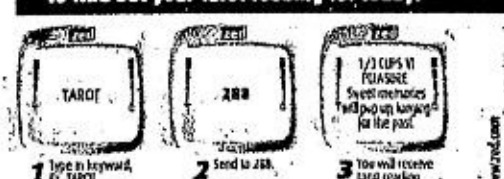
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Westin marks 25th anniversary with grand celebration

IT'S A GRAND celebration for the 25th anniversary of Westin Philippine Plaza. Highlight of the festivities is an all-night party on Sept. 28, dubbed "The Westin Weekend, A Silver Street Party," featuring the Rage Band, with other top bands from Siete Pecados who will perform till dawn.

Party jock Steve Mills and five other dance DJs will command the turntable for non-stop grooving on the dance floor.

The stage will be set in front of the PICC along Vicente Sotto Street, with food and drink stalls provided by Westin Choices, Holland Sausage, Dulcinea, Flavors and Fries, Jamaican Patties, Big Chill, Coca Cola and San Miguel Beer.

An antipiracy advocacy concert, "Thank You for the Music," topples the country's biggest recording stars in a musical review and grand stage presentation, Sept. 27 at the Grand Plaza Ballroom.

Before the street party that night, Westin will screen classics like "An Affair to Remember," "It Happened One Night" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's," in a make-shift open-air theater starting 7 p.m.

For reservations, call Westin Philippine Plaza at 551-5555.

Martin releases classic hit songs

MARTIN Nievera's classic hits have been compiled in an album, "My Souvenirs," released under the PolyEast label of MCA Universal.

The special CD album will be launched in a party at 7 tonight at Country Waffles in Annapolis st., Greenhills.

"My Souvenirs" is the first OPM album that utilized the 44.1 khz bit digital transfer for a more defined sound.

Each track in "My Souvenirs" represents an unforgettable episode in Martin Nievera's enviable rise to music stardom.

The album includes a dazzling track list: "You" from his gold and platinum album, "Journeys," in 1997; "You Are My Song," a CD single that went gold and platinum in 1996; "Forever," a duet with Regine Velasquez; "You're My Everything" and "Never Said Goodbye" from the album "Roads," that reached the double platinum in 1995;

"Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and "The Promise" from the album "Forever," that went triple platinum in 1999; "The Greatest Love Affair," a duet with Bert Nievera; "The Last Time I Felt Like This," duet with his sister Vicki Nievera-Davis; and "Kahit Isang Saglit" from the double platinum album "Return To Forever" in 1999.

There are also Martin's most recent recordings: "It's All Up To You," his duet with US pop star Mikaila; "Pag-uwi," a Louie Ocampo composition that won the grand prize in the 2001 Metro Pop Music Festival; his very personal favorite, "The Greatest Love of All," and his chart contender, "To Say Goodbye."

WITNESS "THE COOLEST ROYAL TRANSFORMATION" OPENS IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 19

MTRCB G

ALL AGES ADMITTED

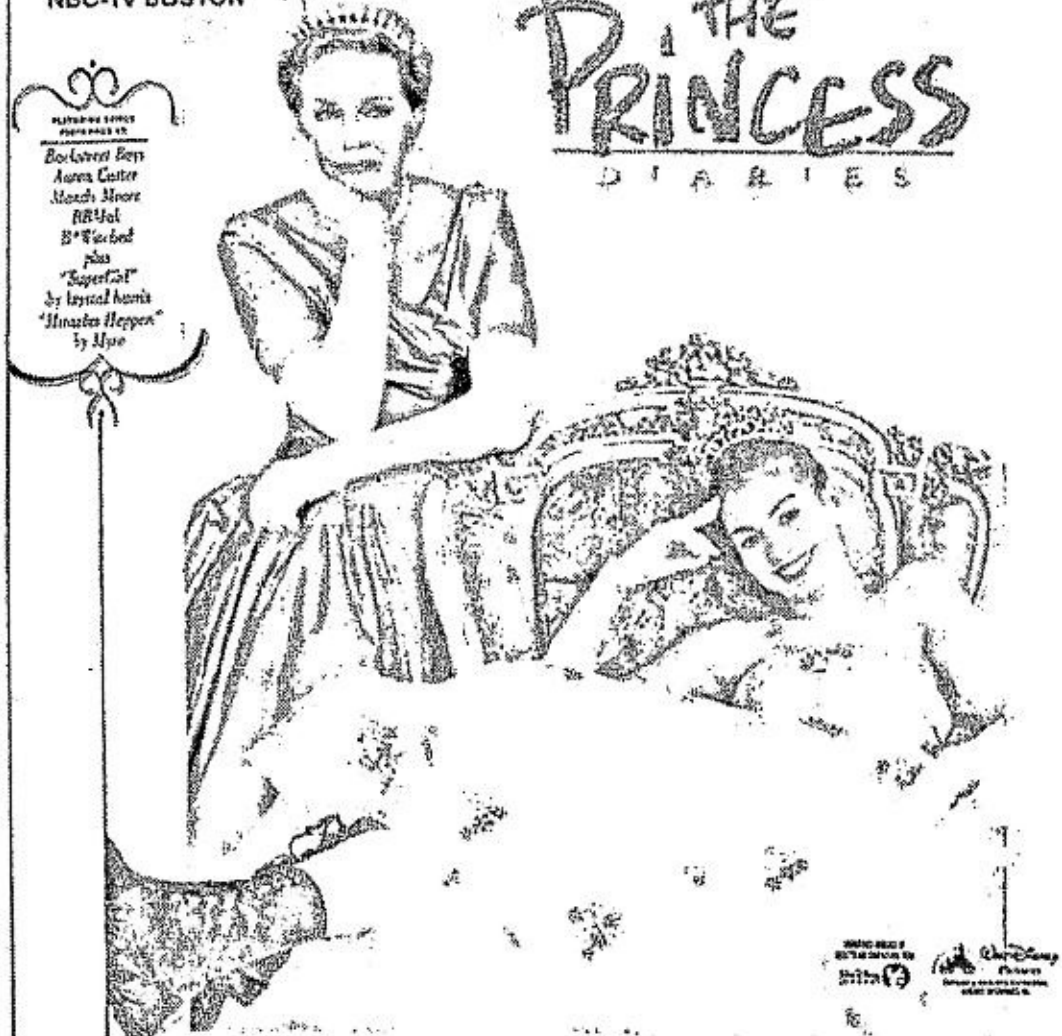
From The Director Of "PRETTY WOMAN" and "RUNAWAY BRIDE"

Julie Andrews

Anne Hathaway

"A hip, funny and moving modern-day fairy tale."

Sara Edwards, NBC-TV BOSTON



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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SECOND WEEK in Manila, Cebu & Iloilo

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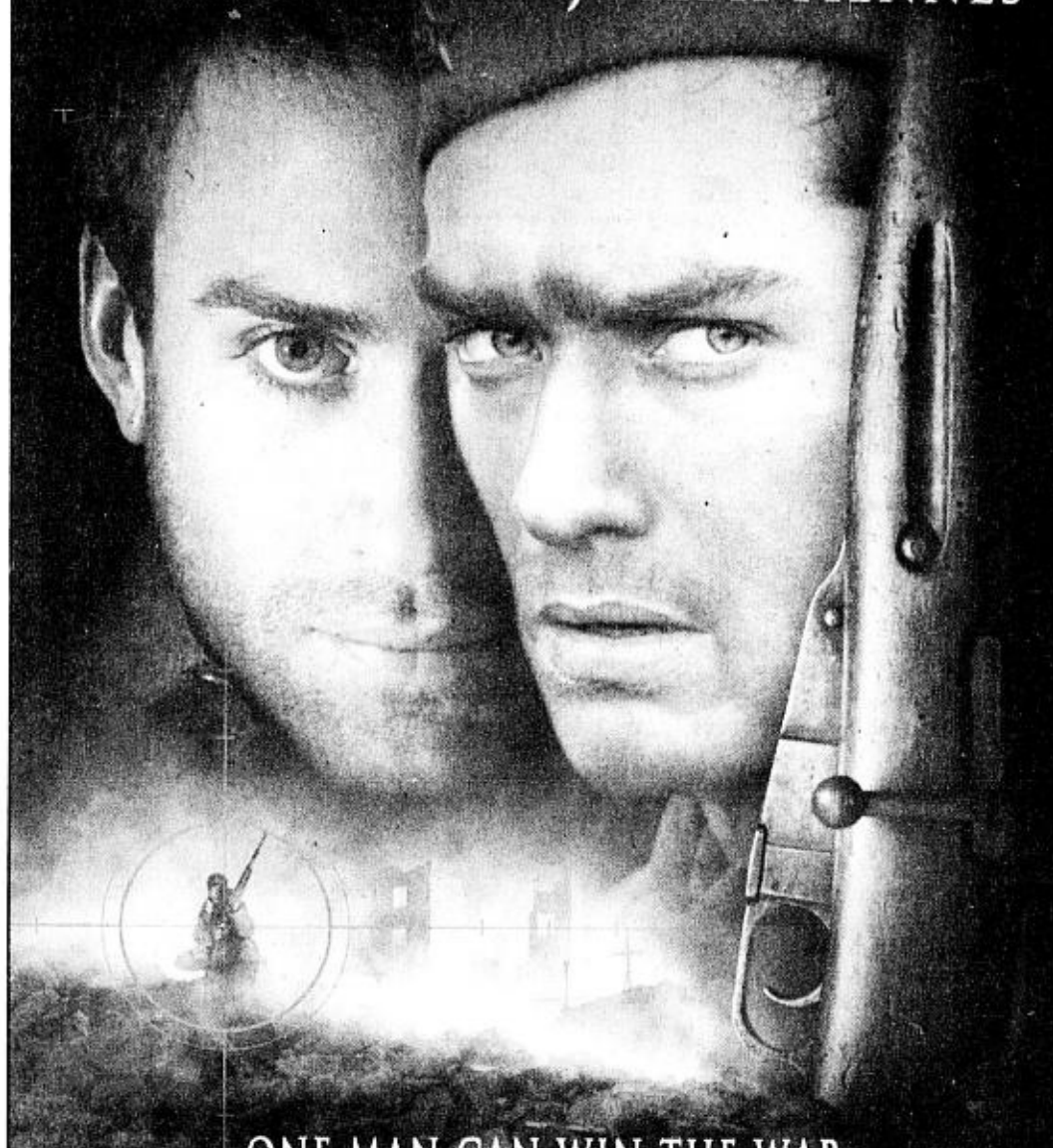
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Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.

Vietnamese-American Bu's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War. A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story. Bu's lyrical script and Runzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.

Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

OPENS TODAY

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'ENEMY AT THE GATES'

Gripping filmmaking a la 'Private Ryan'

BY PAUL DAZA

IF YOU haven't gotten tired of World War II action dramas yet, you may want to catch "Enemy at the Gates," the newest film of French director Jean-Jacques Annaud.

The movie is finally playing in Manila theaters, where it belongs. Set in Stalingrad between 1942 and 1943, "Enemy" is set in the huge canvas of a Russian city nearing complete destruction. It's a movie that will lose more than half its punch if viewed on a television screen.

Based on the true story of a sharpshooter who helped the Russians in their fight against the advancing German forces at Stalingrad, "Enemy at the Gates" is epic in scope and intimate at the same time. The battle scenes have a raw and unflinching immediacy that brings the viewer right in the middle of the action.

The first battle scene shows dozens of Russian soldiers in flimsy boats crossing the Volga River to reach Stalingrad as they are pep-

pered with bullets by German planes.

Though it is gripping, nauseating, bravura filmmaking, you may get a sense of déjà vu because it's reminiscent of "Saving Private Ryan." And because the camera is airborne in some shots, you'll also be reminded of "Pearl Harbor," even though "Enemy at the Gates" was filmed first.

REVIEW

Love story

Woven into the huge battle between the Russians and the Germans, however, is a more personal conflict between two sharpshooters out to destroy one another. The idea of a sharpshooter being one of the more pivotal elements in a platoon of soldiers is not a new one in World War II films. In Spielberg's Oscar-winning "Private Ryan," the sharpshooter was a Bible-quoting Texan played by Barry Pepper. He was a supporting actor.

In "Enemy at the Gates," the movie is about the sharpshooter, a historical figure named Vassili Zaitsev whose rifle is still displayed

in one of Russia's historical museums. He's played by the versatile Jude Law, who can also be seen as a robot gigolo in Spielberg's "A.I. Artificial Intelligence."

One "Enemy" element which "Private Ryan" doesn't have is a love story, with matching love-making scene, of course. Before "Enemy at the Gates," I had no idea that Russian women were also drafted as soldiers to help prevent the Germans from taking over Stalingrad. This gives the filmmakers an excuse to inject a subplot that has Vassili falling in love with the courageous Tania, played by Rachel Weisz (best known as Brendan Fraser's love interest in the "Mummy" movies). The film's production notes swear that this romance actually happened.

Rounding out the impressive cast of "Enemy at the Gates" are Bob Hoskins as Nikita Kruschev; Joseph Fiennes as Danilo, a writer who uses the story of Vassili's successes to boost morale among the Russians; and Ed Harris as Major Konig, the Nazi sharpshooter as-

signed to kill Vassili.

Powerful start

The most gripping scenes are those which show the rival sharpshooters, Vassili and Konig, waiting patiently to strike at their intended targets. These scenes are skillfully filmed and edited for maximum suspense, and showcase ingenious uses of mirrors and pieces of string in survival situations.

"Enemy at the Gates" starts off powerfully and then lags in the middle. The pace picks up again only in the last 30 minutes when Vassili and Konig lay eyes on one another, alternating in their roles as hunter and hunted.

Between the two huge battles which bookend the film are scenes which are intended to humanize the characters and make the conflict more personal. Though the film is about two men trying to kill one another, women and children are not spared in the carnage. There are graphic close-ups of heads exploding and blood splattering from downed soldiers. Equally disturbing is the sight of a child hanging from rafters.

This isn't a movie for anyone under 18.



GUNMAN. Jude Law plays a Russian sharpshooter.

Michael Jackson after 30 years: From brilliant to bizarre

NEW YORK—Michael Jackson's 30-year career as solo artist has encompassed everything from the truly brilliant to the utterly bizarre. The same could be said about his star-studded anniversary concert—a surreal, yet undeniably captivating evening.

Friday's concert—the first of two shows at Madison Square Garden—marked Jackson's first performance on US soil in more than a decade, during which time he's seen his once-dominant presence on the American music scene decline.

But if there was any doubt about Jackson's star power, it was erased as a capacity crowd—some of whom had paid up to \$2,500 per ticket—waited anxiously for a glimpse of the King of Pop.

Though the night's lineup in-

cluded the likes of Britney Spears, Destiny's Child, Ray Charles and Liza Minnelli, it was Jackson who created the most frenzy, even before uttering a single note.

When Jackson made his way to his seat, dressed in a white, glittery jacket with his favorite accessory—Elizabeth Taylor—on his arm, he drew crazed screams and applause so intense it drowned out Samuel Jackson as he introduced the night's first performance.

The concert kicked off with two of R&B's brightest young stars, Usher and Mya, singing Jackson's "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" in an extravagant, jungle-themed dance number.

Though Usher has modeled himself as Jackson's heir apparent, he lacked Jackson's spark, while Mya's lightweight voice could

barely be heard over the music.

It wasn't until Whitney Houston burst on stage toward the end, her voice soaring above theirs, that the song began to echo the original vitality in which Jackson sang it.

By the time Houston finished, the crowd was dazzled, giving what would be one of several standing ovations of the night.

But from that high, the concert crashed to a low as Marlon Brando took to the stage, his large frame resting on a couch. Though the crowd cheered at just the sight of the Oscar-winning actor, they soon became bewildered as Brando sent the next few minutes mumbling about child poverty, abuse and disease.

"I saw kids in the last stages of starvation, and it was something you didn't want to see," he said.

For every truly entertaining moment—Marc Anthony beautifully

crooning "She's Out of My Life," or Destiny's Child paying homage to Jackson with their fedora hats and white gloves during "Bootylicious"—there were truly cringe-inducing moments that made you want to close your eyes until they were over.

One was Minnelli's rendition of Jackson's "You Are Not Alone."

Although it may be one of Jackson's more schmaltzy songs, the R. Kelly-penned tune was never meant to endure this kind of treatment, as a frail-looking Minnelli warbled the No. 1 hit cabaret style, with a gospel choir behind her.

Other stars' talents were clearly misused. Al Jarreau was reduced to playing the Tin Man during recreation of scene from "The Wiz," Jackson's only movie role; the performance from Ray Charles and jazz singer Cassandra Wilson seemed out of place and out of sync, given

the pop nature of the show.

Then there were the videotaped tributes to Jackson, which lauded him as the "greatest," the "most sensitive," the "most successful" ad naseum.

But those moments were temporarily forgotten once Jackson appeared on the stage. Though the sight of him was at times jarring—his pale, surgically altered face seems incapable of showing much expression anymore—his presence was formidable.

Then it was time for Jackson to shine, alone. Anyone expecting Jackson to reinvent himself artistically would be disappointed, however: The only new material from Jackson came as he performed his new single, "You Rock My World," the first release from his upcoming album, "Invincible."

For his old hits, he trotted out familiar dance steps, some of which were over two-decades old, per-

forming songs like "Beat It" and "The Way You Make Me Feel," almost identically to the way he had on video years ago.

At times, it seemed as if even Jackson was tired of them, performing them without the full-effort given in the past. Still, as dated as those moves may have seemed, they were still enough to generate chills of excitement.

A special highlight was "Billie Jean," for which Jackson dusted off his white trademark glove, which showcased his freestyling, pulsating footwork.

At 43 years of age and with more than three decades in the spotlight, Jackson's act may have gotten a bit familiar, but never stale, with enough dazzle to get the most jaded Jackson critics out of their seats.

After Jackson's Friday performance, another comeback doesn't seem out of reach. **AP**

'Markova' applauded at Toronto filmfest

(From page A28)

Portes said "Markova," which won third Best Picture Award in the December 2001 Manila Film Festival, got mixed reactions from Manila moviegoers, critics and the director's colleagues.

He said "Markova," which he hated to be known as a "gay film," was a break-even movie at the Manila box office but some sectors

questioned its moral content.

He explained that Roman Catholicism in the Philippines and the government's moral recovery program made it difficult to win a receptive audience for "Markova," the tale of a gay man named Walter Dempster Jr. who was forced to be a sex slave to Japanese soldiers in World War II, when homosexual-

ity was taboo.

Less tolerant

"It's really sad that this film had to get out of the country to get a little respect," Portes said. "But I'm happy it has found an audience here."

Invited to various international screenings, "Markova" is the first Filipino movie to make it to the Stockholm International Film Festival.

Portes said most Filipinos, even if they live in the highly urbanized Manila, seem less keen on homosexuality as a serious subject matter in movies. Filipinos are less tolerant of gays and lesbians than their western counterparts, he said.

"It (homosexuality) is considered a sickness," he stressed. "In movies, television shows, (homosexuals) are usually insulted."

Portes said Dempster, who de-

fied his conservative era, is like the movie itself, which aims to debunk gay stereotypes.

"I'm not trying to make a statement here," said Portes, who claimed to be one of the pioneers of Philippine independent filmmaking. "But who can say it (homosexuality) is right or wrong?"

Bigger audience

He described himself as a "serious Catholic" but New York- and London-trained Portes said this would not prevent him from making films that could be labeled as "progressive," "liberal" or "open minded."

Portes had his debut at the TIFF in 1988 with "Birds of Prey," which stars Gina Alajar. "Birds" is the story of an expatriate who finds confusion in her homecoming after the

historic People Power in 1986.

This year, "Markova" brought Portes back to Toronto. And he hopes it would send him to other festivals. "This film must be shown to a wide audience," he said.

His "Saranggola (The Kite)" was one of the top 15 official selections among 47 films submitted to the Oscars Best Foreign Language Film category last year. It is the story of a boy who witnesses a gruesome crime committed by his policeman father.

This year, the Philippines has two entries to TIFF, which kicked off on Sept. 6. The other film is "Death Row," directed by Joel Lamangan, who also appeared in "Markova" as a city councilor who helped build a nursing home for old gays.

"Death Row" will have its international premiere on Thursday. Its second and last screening is on Sept. 15, the last day of the film festival.

There are 326 films, 249 feature-length movies and 77 shorts in this year's TIFF. It is Toronto's last huge summer event.

Another crowd-drawing event is the Toronto gay parade, which usually ushers in the warm, sunny season. Gay men and women and straights join the colorful and entertaining parade on downtown Toronto. Participants come in their favorite costumes. But the popular fashion is wearing nothing at all.

The latest gay parade, attended by City Mayor Mel Lastman, lured 800,000 people from North America, South America, Europe and even Asia.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40	SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Osang snubs preliminary probe of libel case filed by carnap suspect Manlongat

BY AGNES DONATO

MOVIE actress and television talk show host Rosanna Rocas on Monday disappointed employees of the Pasig City prosecutor's office when she did not show up for the preliminary investigation of a libel suit filed against her by a man she reportedly referred to as a "carnapper" in her show.

Complainant Joselito "Jojo" Manlongat, who is himself facing charges of car theft as well as of possession of illegal drugs, filed the libel case against Rocas.

Scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, the preliminary investigation of the case did not take place because of the star's absence.

Prosecutor Ma. Anunciacion Hipol said she received a phone call

about 10 minutes before 2 p.m. from Rocas' lawyer June Ambrosio, who asked that the preliminary investigation be moved to next Monday.

Ambrosio said the subpoena was only delivered to her last Saturday, leaving her and Rocas insufficient time to come up with a counter-affidavit.

In his complaint-affidavit, Manlongat claimed that Rocas

"caused (him) dishonor, discredited (him) and besmirched (his) reputation" for calling him a "carnapper" in her talk show "Startalk" sometime in June or July.

Manlongat quoted Rocas as saying, "Si Jojo Manlongat 'yon, 'yung carnapper (That's Jojo Manlongat, the car thief)" in response to a question made by one of her cohosts in the Saturday afternoon show biz

talk show aired on GMA 7.

The complainant said a number of his friends called him up shortly after the broadcast and informed him about Rocas' alleged remark.

"Rosanna Rocas has no good intention and justifiable motive for making and uttering the libelous remark," Manlongat said.

The illegal drugs case against

Manlongat is still pending in a Pasig court. The arraignment was held last month.

Manlongat is suspected to be one of the "Valle Verde boys," also known as the "Fianza gang," who were arrested for alleged car theft during an entrapment operation conducted last year by the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.



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ROCES

Loren proposes tax incentives for quality films

SENATE majority leader Loren Legarda Leviste hopes to help the local film industry by providing tax incentives for quality films through a Film Development and Incentives Board.

Legarda is confident that her proposal, embodied in Senate Bill No. 671, will eventually boost the production of movies that can compete in the international market.

"The main problem that is hindering the growth and development of the local film industry is the fact that the numerous taxes and charges assigned to producers leave them with very little share of the profit," Legarda said in a statement. "While these individuals would want to develop and expand their artistry to promote the Filipino identity, practically speaking, what they spend on creating films vis à vis what they earn is simply not enough compensation."

Senate Bill No. 671 provides for the creation of a cinema evaluation system which will cover different aspects of the film such as screenplay, direction, performance, cinematography, musical scoring, production, design and sound. The board will decide if a film deserves the special incentives package.

An "A" rating entitles the film to an incentive equal to 100 percent of the amusement tax collected. A "B" rating means a 65 percent incentive.

A maximum of 15 films will be granted the amusement tax incentive in the first year of implementation, 20 films in the second year, 25 in the third year and 30 every year thereafter.

"I am very confident that such legislation would boost our movie industry because it will encourage filmmakers to focus on the artistic qualities of the film and not solely on its profitability," Legarda said. "I believe that the Filipino audience is ready to accept and test new films of a higher appreciation and it is through SB No. 671 that this may be addressed."

Portes' 'Markova' earns applause at Toronto filmfest

BY JANET GARCIA

TORONTO—In this city, where the summer gay parade teems with naked people and attracts thousands of tourists, "Markova, Comfort Gay" felt at home.

The Gil M. Portes film about the struggles of a homosexual during World War II received praises, loud and long applause from moviegoers when it had its international premiere last Friday at the 26th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

"Amazing film," a Filipino immigrant commented. "Great," a Caucasian woman yelled at the ecstatic Portes.

After the first screening in a downtown theater, most members of the audience stayed on for almost half an hour to congratulate Portes as well as lead stars and siblings Eric and Jeffrey Quizon, who gladly answered queries about the film that also features their father Dolphy, the King of Comedy.

The warm reception was repeated on Sunday when "Markova" had its second and last screening for an audience that was predominantly non-Filipino.

MARKOVA/ A27

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Latino
An inspiring medley of light, Latin love songs.

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Numero Uno
A compilation of fast and upbeat Latin tunes.Sabado Fiesta
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6pm-10pm

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A countdown of popular Latin artists and albums.Heart-pumping & adrenalin-rushing music
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10pm-12mn

Amor
A review of the day's best love songs.

RP feels pinch of laundering sanctions

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

SOME Philippine entities are now suffering the effects of sanctions imposed by the Group of Seven nations following the country's delay in passing a law against money laundering, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

"We are beginning to see the sanctions now. Some banks have declined processing some of our transactions from abroad," Buenaventura said in a television interview without elaborating.

The Financial Action Task Force, a Paris-based anti-money laundering initiative of industrialized nations, has placed the Philippines and several other countries on a watchlist for its alleged failure to impose controls to check money laundering.

Money laundering is the "cleansing" of funds raised from illegal activities such as drug-trafficking, kidnapping and racketeering.

The FATF, based at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, called on its members last week "to

implement additional counter-measures unless the Philippines enacts significant legislation (against money laundering) by September 30, 2001."

It did not specify the suggested counter-measures against the Philippines, whose legislature has so far failed to amend the country's strict bank secrecy laws. Experts said the law made the country a potential haven for money laundering.

Buenaventura said they would try to convince developed countries not to impose sanctions by showing that it has made progress

on the issue.

But he conceded that the Congress was unlikely to pass the needed legislation before the end of the month.

Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho are scheduled to meet in Japan with the chair of the FATF review group, Noriaki Mizuno, who is also the chair of FATF in the Asia Pacific. The two economic officials are accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo who is starting her state visit to Japan today.

Buenaventura and Camacho also

sent a joint letter to FATF president Claire Low last week to update the Task Force on how the legislation against money laundering in Congress had been gaining support.

The Paris-based Task Force believes that about \$1.5 trillion in dirty funds were being laundered yearly in countries that have lax policies against money laundering.

He said they would not seek an extension but were meeting them "really more to inform them that we are doing something."

Buenaventura said he would tell them that passing the legislation

was delayed by various events like the impeachment and subsequent ouster of then President Joseph Estrada from October to January, and the holding of congressional elections in May.

Despite these events, a draft anti-money laundering bill was already prepared and is awaiting approval by both houses of Congress, he said.

Buenaventura said the FATF might be placated if Manila could show it that the bill was on the verge of being passed into law.

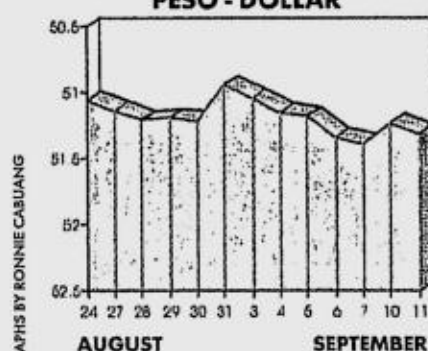
At least eight legislators from the

RP/B3

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Peso-Dollar Rate

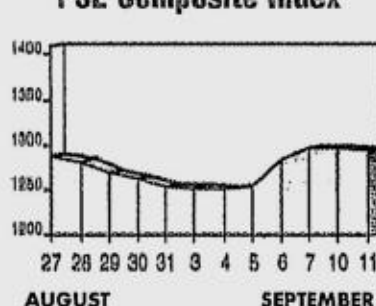
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As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 11, 2001

GOLD: \$271.30/271.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks down slightly

SHARES closed a shade lower yesterday as players groped for direction following the flat performance of Wall Street overnight and with the lack of fresh leads.

Traders said the impact of the US economic slowdown on the local market remained a concern, prompting players to keep a short-term view of the market.

"There's basically a lull right now. As far as regional markets and the US market are concerned, we're not getting clear signals," said Oliver Piana, an analyst at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"Unless we see them establishing direction, there won't be any major movements in the local market... The blue chip counter is succumbing to rotational buying," he said.

The Philippine main index edged down 3.10 points, or 0.24 percent, to end at 1,294.09 points after falling to follow through an intra-day breaching of the 1,300 psychological resistance.

The index climbed to a day-high of 1,302.41 points, a three-week high.

Larry Lirazan, marketing manager at Worldsec International Securities, said players who were buying up the market were the ones who led the selling when the index could not convincingly go past the 1,300 level. *Reuters*

GMA nets P193M

GMA Network Inc., the second largest media network in the country, reported gross revenues of P1.75 billion for the first six months of the year, an increase of P484 million or 38 percent from last year. It said operation expenses increased by only 9 percent.

Completely recovering from the P27-million loss for the same period last year, GMA registered a net income of P193 million for the first six months of 2001.

This recovery was attributed mainly to the increase in effective rates and the improvement in loading for TV operations.

It said cash operating expenses went up by P132 million, 26 percent higher than last year's level but slightly behind budget. Production costs and talent fees, as well as the hiring of key personnel to beef up the support groups, accounted for the bulk of the increase in expenses.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda) reached P735 million during the six-month period, or a jump of 73 percent from last year's level and 12 percent ahead of budget.

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LAND, GOV'T DEBT NOTES

GSIS plans new investments

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

STATE-RUN Government Service Insurance Co. is planning to venture into new investment opportunities, including real estate development and the flotation of high-yield debt instruments with an initial P10 billion of its P150-billion investment portfolio.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said the plan to engage in other investments where returns were seen to be much higher in the long run was to help recover about P10 billion in losses from investments in the stock market since last year.

The pension fund for government employees and insurer of state assets wanted to spend at least P5 billion to buy idle state-owned pieces of property at one-third of their value in a bid to create more value for its more than 1.5 million members.



GARCIA

With only P5 billion, Garcia said he could buy P15 billion worth of real estate assets. He said government corporations might agree to

sell at a discount since these agencies from which he intended to buy were also cash-strapped.

A government-to-government deal, he noted, should not pose a problem for the Commission on Audit.

"Last year we lost P9 billion from stock investments and this year another P1 billion. We have to find a way to recover the losses," the GSIS chief said.

Garcia said he has also asked state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines to help the GSIS design a securitization program for its P70-billion loan portfolio, which earns a yield of only about 11 percent.

"We want to securitize this loan portfolio and the proceeds we want to use to buy higher yielding government securities," he said.

Garcia said the GSIS was planning to issue P5 billion worth of five-year debt notes using its loan portfolio as collateral.

The proceeds would be used to buy higher yielding treasury bills or bonds. He said that

even a two to three percentage point gain from the difference between its borrowing and the yield of the government securities would mean a lot to GSIS members.

On the land-banking side, Garcia said he has started to negotiate with Philippine National Construction Corp. to buy about 12 hectares of property on Roxas Boulevard at P10,000 per square meter when its market price is at P30,000 per sq.m.

The GSIS is also looking at a 20-hectare property of Philippine Estates Authority along Manila Bay that the GSIS wanted to buy for P12,000-P15,000 per sq.m. when its market value is still at around P40,000 per sq.m.

"When we buy properties of government corporations, we also provide them with much-needed liquidity. Anyway, GSIS can ride the property slump but when it recovers again even in the next seven to eight years, the gains would be exponential," he said.

He said the pieces of property that the GSIS wanted to buy were those in commercial areas so as not to conflict with the government's mass housing program.

Garcia noted that the GSIS has gone full-blast also with its P18-billion housing program where a member can borrow as much as P500,000 in housing loan.

Banks restructure P400-M Philcom debt

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

CASH-STRAPPED telecommunications firm Philippine Global Communications Inc. has completed the restructuring of P400 million in secured debts owed by its international gateway facility (IGF) unit.

The recent deal with the secured banks was a small but significant step toward the much-delayed restructuring of Philcom's total debt of P3 billion, sources privy to the restructuring negotiations told the INQUIRER.

"We're still hoping to finish the restructuring by the end of the year," one of the sources said.

"Most of the (secured) banks have signed the agreement and it's enough to get the restructuring going," the source noted.

The portion of restructured debt, however, represents only less than half of the IGF debts.

The IGF unit has the license to operate long-distance telephone services. On top of the P400 million in secured debts, the IGF unit still has to restructure or lengthen the maturity of P800 million in unsecured debts.

"We're still negotiating with the unsecured creditors," the source said.

Another bulk of the company's P3-billion debt consisted of obligations incurred by its local exchange carrier unit (LEC), equivalent to about \$34.5 million.

Among the company's major creditor-banks which account for more than half of its total debts are Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, China Banking Corp. and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

Philcom was one of the country's leading providers of international long distance services but its financial performance had been weakened by the Asian currency turmoil, which caused the skyrocketing of interest payments on its dollar-denominated debts.

Philcom is seeking the restructuring of its loans in order to give it some breathing space as far as its cash flow is concerned. It hopes to stretch out the maturity of its debts, some of which are falling due this year, by another five to seven years.

At the very least, however, sources said the resolution of the ownership squabble among shareholders of parent firm Belle Corp. has given Philcom a better momentum in negotiating with its creditors.

Restructuring efforts were stalled in 1999 by the row between the groups of former Marcos Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin and other Belle shareholders led by stockbroker Willy Ocier.

Belle, which owns 40 percent of Philcom through subsidiary APC Group Inc., had been planning to sell its stake in the telecom firm in order to concentrate its resources on property and gaming.

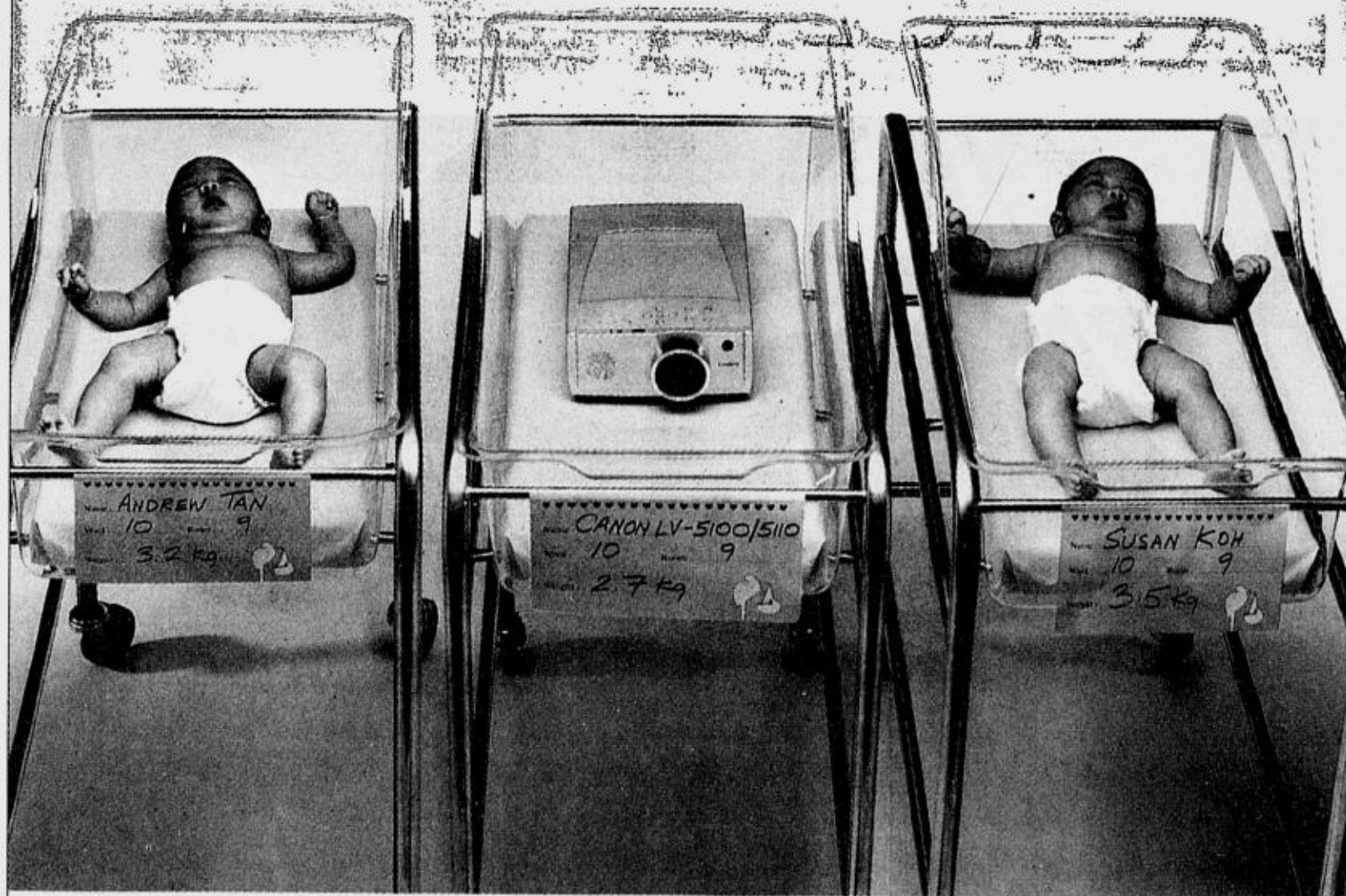
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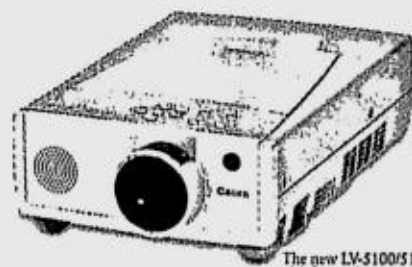
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SM: Sucking money RP feels pinch . . .

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



IT WAS a Monday afternoon, this Monday, yet the sprawling parking lot of the spanking new SM San Fernando was full. The mall's security guards had to allow the overflow vehicles to park by the mall's side roads, despite the prominent "No Parking" signs.

If this were a typical Monday, working-day scene, how much traffic does this mall draw on weekends?

Like a giant vacuum machine, taipan Henry Sy's Pampanga mall has been sucking out peasant and OFW money from the nearby towns and provinces since it opened late last year.

Though this month is still considered *gawat* or lean month by the farmers, it was positively inspiring to see the hordes of shoppers such as we saw Monday afternoon inside the SM Supermarket and its anchor department store.

Save for the higher-end branches of Makati-based boutiques, almost all the shops' cash registers seem to be merrily singing *ka ching, ka ching* from all those purchases.

Even Robina Gokongwei-Pe, whose family is building another and bigger Robinsons' mall right across from where SM is, thinks business is better, at least in this part of the country, than what may be gleaned from the newspapers and from the academic pundits.

Inspired by the initial success, SM San Fernando is already building an annex that would double its floor area when finished by next year.

The retail revolution unleashed by the Sys and the Gokongweis has been a tide that has also lifted the fortunes of smaller mall-based shops, given the peasants access to middle-class dreams and hitherto Manila-based luxuries (air-conditioned shopping, for instance), and a semblance of cosmopolitanism long denied them.

Pizza Hut, for instance, is expanding the culinary tastes of the *provincianos* in this formerly hotbed of leftwing insurgency.

Max's, the homegrown fried chicken chain, is subliminally giving lessons on basic table cutlery on folks who normally eat with their fingers at home.

Good brewed coffee?

The Old Manila coffee shop, Antonio Carpio's answer to Starbucks and Seattle, had full tables except for two when we passed by it Monday afternoon. Designer coffee in the middle of a sugarcane field? Yes, SM San Fernando has it.

A lot of troubles

AFTER all that public posturings about suits and counter-suits, the squabble between the Philippine Stock Exchange and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. over the terms of donation for the new unified trading floor and headquarters is headed for an amicable solution.

According to the grapevine, the PSE building committee chaired by Ismael "Toto" Cruz has reached a tentative agreement with the Fort Boni folks covering the latter's property donation that the litigious route may no longer be necessary.

PSE chair Felipe Yap is said to be quite happy over the enlarged ground-floor area ratio that the stockbrokers had wangled from the Fort Boni group that he has decided to table the proposed agreement in today's PSE board meeting.

Jaguar's new 'roar

IT IS no secret among the local car industry players that it is the popular "S" saloon that has kept the Jaguar dealership here afloat ever since the Asian currency crisis emptied the wallets of many big spenders.

With the Christmas spending season coming, Jag dealer Wellington Soong hopes to widen his market base with the introduction on Friday of the all-wheel drive X-type, the entry-level Jag that has been drawing superlative comments from the motoring press worldwide.

According to the grapevine, Soong is bringing in only one version for the Philippine market, the fully loaded SE, 2.5-liter automatic version. An initial eight Xes are now in the country, all having been pre-sold or spoken for, at P2.75 million each.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PSG back-up vehicle that Bel-Air residents always espy parked along Amapola Street is detailed with Dato M. Arroyo, according to his sister, First Daughter Luli M. Arroyo.

Dato is currently enrolled at the Ateneo College of Law in Rockwell, which is just across the street.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Banco de Oro moves IPO to 4th quarter

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, owned by retail magnate Henry Sy, has moved to the fourth quarter its initial public offering earlier slated this month, Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan said.

In an interview, Tan said the IPO would likely bring up the bank's capital base to as much as P14 billion depending on the pricing of the shares issue.

The IPO of Banco de Oro is expected to be the biggest IPO for this year following the offerings of software developer SQL Wizard and real estate developer Primex.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requires universal banks to list at least 10 percent of their outstanding capital within three years of getting their license. In the past two years, the monetary agency extended the deadline for Banco de Oro to list, with the last extension granted to the universal bank until the end of this month.

A BSP official, however, said the BSP was willing to extend the deadline.

Banco de Oro last June finalized its merger with Dao Heng Bank Philippines. The merger, together with various pending transactions, will boost the bank's paid-up capital to P12 billion prior to the bank's IPO.

Banco de Oro is in the process of converting P3.5 billion in preferred shares to common shares and has entered into a share swap that will allow the bank to own its Ortigas-based headquarters as well as an adjacent property.

A Cayman Islands-registered mutual fund, Cambridge Pacific Fund, is also investing at least P2 billion into the local universal bank.

Banco de Oro, which earlier filed a prospectus for its IPO, has tapped BPI Capital as the lead underwriter of the issue. The bank plans to file an updated prospectus with regulatory agencies in order to reflect the entry of Cambridge Pacific, the merger with Dao Heng Bank, the share-swap and the conversion of preferred shares into common shares.

(From page B1)

Lower House and the Senate met at the BSP last Monday to discuss how a law against money laundering could be fast-tracked to prevent any further pressure against the Philippines from rich member countries of the Paris-based Task Force.

"I was not invited to the meeting because we simply provided them the venue. I believe they are trying to fast-track it," the BSP governor told reporters Monday night.

The central bank chief was hopeful that Congress would have firmed up and consolidated an omnibus bill

against money laundering by next month.

"It is too early and premature to say that the sanctions will definitely be imposed by Sept. 30 because we are still working on it (the bill)," he said.

He warned that international transac-

tions would become "more expensive" for the Philippines if sanctions are imposed.

Buenaventura said the country's trade relations might even be impaired if financial transactions would be subjected to undue scrutiny.

With a report from AFP

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CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B/C**	350,000/320,000**	400,000/450,000/700,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B/C**	230,000	240,000/300,000/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B	-	300,000/450,000*
METRO CLUB A/B	-	175,000/180,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B	700,000	750,000/850,000*
ORCHARD A/B/C**	600,000**	250,000/425,000*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	230,000	235,000
RIVERA GOLF A/B	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	600,000
STA. ELENA GOLF	1,700,000	1,875,000
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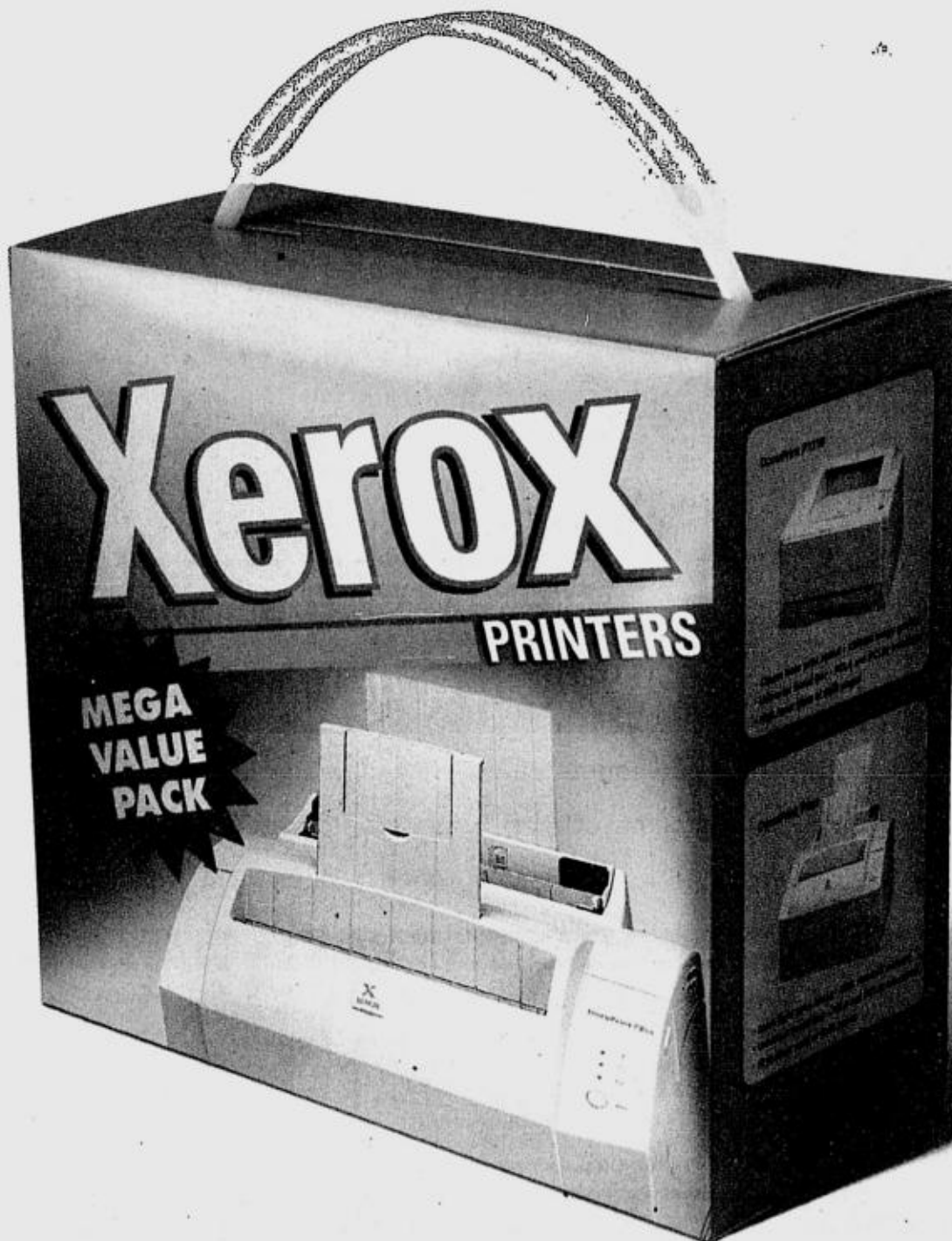
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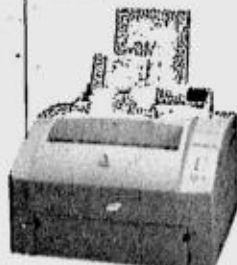
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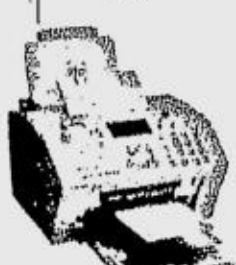
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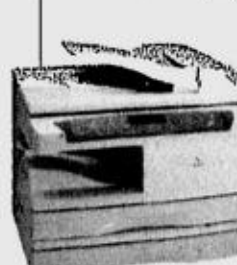
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FILIPINO REPORT CARD

Fighting poverty with limited funds

By DENNIS M. ARROYO

(Third of a series)

THE FILIPINO Report Card reveals a whole range of poverty problems, yet public funds to fight poverty have been very limited. How then can the country get the most benefit from each peso it spends? Here are some measures one can conclude from reading the World Bank's data. These are taken from the Social Weather Station's March 26-April 17, 2000 national survey commissioned by the World Bank.

• **Take account of big fund leakage to the non-poor.**

Rice from the National Food Authority is intended to subsidize the consumption of the poor. The SWS survey, however, found that the non-poor got an NFA subsidy greater than that for the

poor.

While there is an urgent need for housing assistance among the poor, the system is biased toward the non-poor in Metro Manila and other cities. Interest subsidies in housing are captured by the non-poor. Leaks are evident in water distribution. The rich who access home-piped water are subsidized more than the poor who rely on community faucets.

SPECIAL REPORT

Then take the discarded "Lingap Para sa Mahihirap" program meant for the 100 poorest families in each province. Many non-poor barangays and non-poor households are listed as eligible for Lingap benefits. In fact, the "eligible" non-poor households outnumber the poor households two to one.

All these leaks must be plugged.

• **Refine program targeting the poor.**

Given the leakage, targeting must be sharpened. Targeting the poor by offering them in-

rior goods leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Better to use geographical targeting, which the people favor. Rolling stores and NFA rice should be deployed to poorer towns, especially those in Mindanao. Identification cards and passbooks may work in low-income areas. The poor themselves would want to enforce this form of rationing.

The government may refine its shelter targeting by setting targets for each income category, with more aid going to the poor. It should also target the most vulnerable groups, like single-parent households. There is a need for a separate housing program for the ultra-poor, the transient homeless. Perhaps hostels with beds and toilets would work for the destitute.

• **Give more autonomy to government hospitals.**

At that time, more than half of the national government's budget for hospitals was spent in Metro Manila. Provincial government hospitals suffered in funding. The Department of Health could save much by giving more autonomy to government hospitals. The department should require them to operate within their earnings. The savings would be put to better use for upgrading primary health facilities.

• **Widen the net of insurance coverage.**

The health department is broadening insurance coverage. The World Bank's data showed that 36 percent of the population was covered by health insurance. This should extend to the poor, as only 0.12 percent of indigents were covered. The net should reach out to the self-employed, as 92 percent of the insured came from the formal sector or the government. More insurance coverage for the non-poor would help provide subsidies for the poor. The national and local governments should subsidize insurance premiums for the poor.

• **Import medicines from India.**

Medicines made up the largest slice—49 percent—of household health expenditures. It is urgent to cut the prices of medicines in the Philippines, which are the highest in Southeast Asia. A step in the right direction is the government's importation of cheaper drugs from sources like India. Eventually, this may break the tight grip of big pharmaceutical firms.

• **Turn to community organizations to give the poor piped water.**

The poor without home-piped connections used up a larger share of their income on water. They spent more to buy vended, risky, low-quality water. It would be ideal to grant the poor home pipes. When this is impossible, the next best option is to install a pipe system feeding water to the whole community. This will require the help of non-government organizations to coordinate water distribution and payment.

• **Stress community mortgage and house upgrading.**

Public housing money is best spent for community mortgage and to upgrade the physical conditions of the urban poor. Community mortgage is the program most affordable for the poor. Improving their sanitation and water conditions will greatly raise their health status and quality of life. Land prices in Metro Manila limit the viability of community mortgage, though. It will be more effective in provincial cities and must be extended to the rural areas.

• **Simplify procedures.**

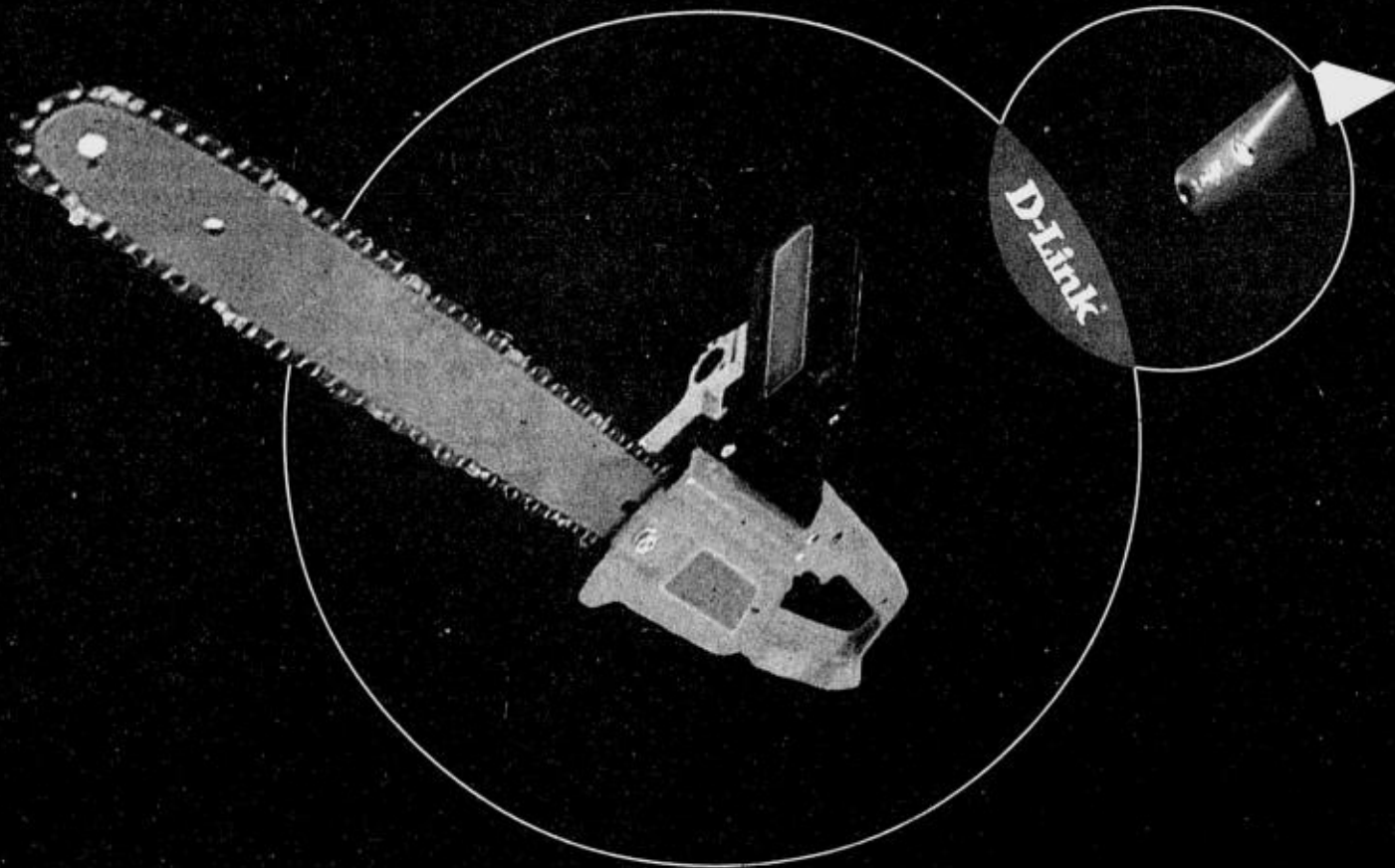
Long waiting time was cited as a top source of dissatisfaction with housing services. Another factor was the difficult application procedure. Applications for community mortgage took from six months to a year due, in part, to the small staff that processed the loans. These factors discouraged the poor from availing of housing programs. They raised "transactions costs" and excluded those in the informal sector. Fortunately, the program has drawn in NGOs, making community mortgage more accessible to the poor.

• **Turn to new ways of raising money for housing.**

There are alternatives for mobilizing resources for housing. Zoning and land taxes will free cheaper land for the urban poor. Local governments are empowered to zone and designate sites for social housing under the Urban Development and Housing Act. These powers have yet to be fully used.

(To be continued)

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Court stops VMC rehab

THE REHABILITATION of Victorias Milling Co., which will include the infusion of P300 million to retrench 970 employees, has been put on hold with the issuance of a temporary restraining order by the Court of Appeals.

The CA issued the TRO following a petition filed by former VMC president Manuel Mañalac questioning the Securities and Exchange Commission-approved rehabilitation plan.

The VMC management had started implementing the rehabilitation plan, VMC chief operating officer Arthur Aguilar said.

The plan covered a P7.9-billion debt restructuring agreement that would include the conversion of unsecured loans into equity.

Under the plan, the 24 banks with unsecured loans will own 70 percent of VMC while the original shareholders will retain 30 percent.

Aguilar said that under normal circumstances when a company has negative equity, as in the case of VMC, the original shareholders were usually wiped out. Under the SEC-approved rehabilitation plan, however, they are allowed to retain 30 percent.

Aguilar said Mañalac was pushing for a different version of the rehabilitation plan that called for unsecured creditors to convert more of their exposure in VMC into equity without decreasing the 30-percent share of the original shareholders.

The CA 13th Division has given both parties 10 days to submit their memoranda after which it may come out with a decision in the first week of November.

The TRO issued Friday will hold until the CA comes out with its ruling, Aguilar said.

Aguilar said that under the SEC order, the rehabilitation plan should be implemented not later than November so they were hoping that the CA would come out with a ruling by then.

Asean opposes new WTO talks

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINES and other member-states of the Asean are standing firm on their position that the World Trade Organization should first resolve the concerns of developing countries before going into a new round of trade negotiations in the ministerial meeting in November in Doha, Qatar.

During the Asia-Europe Meeting of Economic Ministers in Hanoi, Roxas told his fellow ministers that the main concern of developing countries was fairness in free trade rules.

Roxas said the talks should have a balanced agenda that must address the concerns of developing countries such as strengthening of the special and differential treatment extended to developing countries, improvement in the market access for their products, focus-

ing on implementation issues, and boosting capacity before launching a new round of talks.

Roxas cited the developing countries' serious concern over environment and labor standards that, he warned, could be used by developed countries as "instruments of protectionism." Also, he said the proposed rule-making process in investment would unduly restrict the policy space of developing countries.

Malaysia's Rafidah Aziz and Indonesia's Rini Soewandi concurred with Roxas' views.

The WTO members are sharply divided on the coverage of the agenda of the upcoming Doha meeting, including a plan to launch a second round of trade negotiations, even though much of the previous round's agreements treaties have not been implemented.

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Mon, Sept 17, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Tues, Sept 18, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
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Gov't to sell 'Ang Pangulo' next year

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is planning to sell the newly refurbished presidential yacht "Ang Pangulo" next year in line with government efforts to raise additional revenues.

Also up for bidding next year are real estate assets in Fort Bonifacio worth about P20 billion and another P10 billion worth of property in Ortigas near Meralco Avenue.

A ranking DOF official said the government was planning to bid out next year the presidential yacht along with the Fort Bonifacio property under the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The DOF official said the floor price for "Ang Pangulo" might be set at P1 billion but if market conditions would improve, the yacht could fetch as much as P4 billion.

Another finance official said the government could raise as much as P20 billion from the sale of the remaining assets of BCDA in Fort Bonifacio. However, he added, the government should first address the squatters' problem in the area.

The Ortigas property forms part of the assets surrendered by Marcos associate Jose Y. Campos but it remains entangled in certain ownership issues.

The cash-strapped Macapagal administration is counting on the sale of government assets to help finance a budget deficit of about P145 billion this year and P130 billion next year.

This year, the government is targeting to raise about P10 billion from the privatization of state assets, including its holdings in Manila Electric Co., Philippine National Construction Corp. and International Broadcasting Co. or IBC-13.

However, the government was able to raise only P500 million from the sale of idle assets in the first seven months of the year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier said the DOF would definitely privatize the shares this year.

DTI to appeal court ruling on cement

CEMENT manufacturers yesterday bemoaned the preliminary injunction against the implementation of the safeguard measures against constitutional flaws because it would eliminate the Philippine industries' main safety net against import surge.

This developed as the Department of Trade and Industry said it would get the Solicitor General to appeal the ruling of the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court.

Union Cement Corp. senior vice president Francisco L. Viray said: "It is a sad day not only for the cement industry and cement workers but for every ailing industry and its workers because one of the essential safety nets against the adverse effects of liberalization has been rendered ineffectual."

UCC is a member of Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor), which along with Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association (CTMA), is asking the government to impose 50-percent duty and quotas on cement imports under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act.

Cement importers successfully obtained a preliminary injunction barring the government from implementing the Safeguard Act because it was unconstitutional for the Department of Trade and Industry or Department of Agriculture to set taxes or duties, a privilege explicitly reserved for the President.

Philcemcor is currently weighing its option on whether to file a motion for reconsideration with the Valenzuela RTC or plead its case to the Supreme Court. But the DTI has decided to appeal the decision claiming that the Safeguard Act was meant to provide safety net to assist local industries during the difficult transition to globalization.

Philcemcor said the injunction was disastrous not only for the cement industry but also for other industries suffering from unfair competition from imports because it bars the government from entertaining similar safeguard applications indefinitely unlike a temporary restraining order which lasts only for 20 days.

Philcemcor and CTMA were the first industries to try the one-year-old Safeguard Act which requires petitioners to prove that their injuries in the form of market share erosion, losses and job cuts were directly caused by the entry of imports. The Safeguard Act was seen as a more accessible safety net than the anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

The Valenzuela court decision overtook the DTI's decision on Philcemcor and CTMA's petitions as the agency needed more time to come up with a ruling that is fair to both the interest of consumers and the managers and workers.

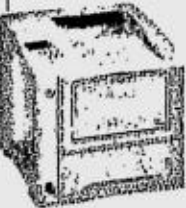
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PRICE MANIPULATION CLAIMS

PSE looks into Cosmos deal

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO
AND ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange will look into the allegations of price manipulation and insider trading hurled by Iloilo congressman Augusto Syjuco against food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. and its softdrinks subsidiary Cosmos Bottling Corp.

The PSE has stepped into the fray following Syjuco's petition to suspend the trading of the shares of RFM and Cosmos due to these alleged violations.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia told reporters after a meeting with Syjuco Monday night that the listing committee of the bourse would still have to evaluate whether there was any merit in Syjuco's petition to suspend the shares trading of these stocks for 15 days.

Due process

Garcia stressed that the PSE could not simply suspend the trading of shares of any listed company without due cause, but that the PSE would look into Syjuco's allegations.

Syjuco said he was pushing for the trading suspension so that the PSE could conduct an investigation and find basis for group's violations.

A PSE inquiry, he said, would bolster public confidence on the local bourse as a self-policing body especially in the aftermath of the "Old Boys Club" image that arose from the previous BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal.

During the meeting, the solon told the PSE he believed that RFM and the Concepcion family owned half of the 18 percent public free float through dummy corporations and individuals, aside from the 82.3 percent disclosed block holdings.

He said he had the documents to back his claim.

"This was what they used to manipulate trading to create an artificial price of Cosmos and RFM shares," Syjuco claimed.

RFM denies

RFM, on the other hand, has refuted Syjuco's allegations of insider trading and stock manipulation.

RFM EVP and COO Felicisimo Nacino Jr. had said that the sale of Cosmos to San Miguel Corp. was "the most publicized and publicly disclosed information to PSE, with around 25 disclosures/news releases

since June 2001."

Aside from insider trading, Syjuco also charged the RFM group with tax evasion.

In a statement yesterday, RFM also said the company was able to present evidence to the court showing that "the Syjuco group of companies agreed to and recognized in their own books the deal structure of the sale of their business to Cosmos."

Syjuco had said he was not aware of the deal structure and was "made an unwitting tool in an apparent grand scheme to evade the payment of the proper tax due to the government."

RFM legal counsel Francis Lim of Accra explained that Cosmos did not want to buy the shares of the companies of Syjuco because of possible hidden liabilities.

"To have a clean start, what was agreed upon as an initial step was to have Syjuco's companies transfer their assets to a newly organized company called Cosmos Visayas Bottling Inc. in exchange for shares in that company. Cosmos then took the second step of buying the shares of CVBI from Syjuco for more than P1 billion," Lim said.

Syjuco raised these concerns after RFM and SMC signed a memorandum of understanding wherein the latter would acquire 100 percent of Cosmos for P15 billion subject to a due diligence study.

TRO

In a bid to reclaim his Jaz Cola bottling business operations he sold to Cosmos in late 1996, Syjuco, secured a temporary restraining order from the Quezon City regional trial court soon after the SMC-RFM MOU signing, preventing the defendants from proceeding with the P15 billion sale until Sept. 13.

He has requested for a preliminary injunction.

In reaction, food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. tagged Syjuco's efforts as a simple case of "harassment" given that that existing records showed Cosmos had fully paid Syjuco for the disputed bottling businesses and assets five years ago.

Moreover, RFM and Cosmos also denied that there was any case of price manipulation or insider trading.

RFM added that it expected to still sign the deal for the sale of its Cosmos shares to SMC by the Sept. 15 deadline.

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001)				CLOSE	VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW			
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES						
BANKS						
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60.5	61	60.5	60.5	238,100	
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30	31.5	30	30.5	269,800	
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	207	209	35,970	
Philippine National Bank	53	53	52	53	461,400	
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,000	
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19.25	18.75	19.25	400	
FINANCIAL SERVICE						
Bankard Inc.	1.25	1.28	1.26	1.28	290,000	
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000	
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1430	1400	1430	780	
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000	
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1125	1125	1125	1125	360	
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION						
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31.5	31.5	15,700	
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	10,500,000	
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000	
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	195,000	
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	545	535	545	25,110	
Ivantage Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.78	1,550,000	
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.029	43,400,000	
POWER & ENERGY						
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32.5	31	31	213,500	
Manila Electric Co. B	47.5	48	45.5	45.5	1,704,100	
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	274,000	
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	150,000	
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES						
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	2.02	1.96	2.02	699,000	
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS						
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	47,000	
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	5,000	
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO						
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	42,000	
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	214,000	
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	608,700	
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	127,000	
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	5,000	
RFM Corp.	2.26	2.34	2.26	2.26	1,971,000	
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40	20,000	
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	55.5	55.5	55.5	239,900	
HOLDING FIRMS						
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	30,000	
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,261,000	
Aboliz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	343,000	
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	800	
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.84	390,000	
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000	
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	180,000	
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11	11	11	11	200	
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.48	1.48	8,231,000	
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000	
Southeast Asian Cement	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	300,000	
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000	
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	200,000	
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	130,000	
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	91,200	
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	510,000	
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	410,000	
Ionics Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	155,000	
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000	
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	36,000	
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000	
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000	
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.69	4,380,000	
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000	
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	4,230,000	
Music Corp.	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.06	1,056,000	
Solid Group Inc.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.42	1,420,000	
Tandayay Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	99,000	
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	210,000	
Wellux Industries Inc.	0.21	0.32	0.21	0.32	90,000	
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING						
Pilcop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000	
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.78	220,000	
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	45,000	
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE						
Belle Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.42	0.42	4,060,000	
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	290,000	
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	920,000	
Manila Jockey Club	19	19	19	19	1,000	
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000	
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	11,000	
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS						
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	32	31	31	304,000	
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	5,000	
Equitable-PCI Bank-War	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000	
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	124,000	
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	44,400,000	
PROPERTY						
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	5	4.85	4.9	14,581,000	
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	200,000	
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	6,790,000	
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,870,000	
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.96	1.98	1,849,000	
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	200,000	
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000	
Ki-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	240,000	
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	100,000	
Prinetown Property Group	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000	
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	600,000	
SM Development Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	220,000	
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	19,051,000	
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000	
MINING						
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	35,000,000	
Itocon-Suyoc Mines A	0.037	0.037	0.035	0.035	8,000,000	
Itocon-Suyoc Mines B	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	500,000	
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	180,000	
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000	
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	59,000,000	
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	800,000	
Philix Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	290,000	
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	180,000	
OIL						
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	12,300,000	
Interport Res.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.005	24,000,000	
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	55,000,000	
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000	
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000	
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000	
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	540,000	
SHARES						
Banks & Fin Svc	1,371,810				66,793,790	UP 3.58
Comm'l & Ind'l	143,969,210				190,979,980	DOWN 9.37
PRO	47,461,000				202,933,660	UP 3.63
Mining	103,970,000				662,500	DOWN 35.09
OIL	102,890,000				797,000	UP 0.02
GRAND TOTALS:	399,887,020				452,445,180	
AVERAGES						
Banks & Fin Svc	526.03					UP 3.58
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,803.59					DOWN 9.37
PRO	519.43					UP 3.63
Mining	1,138.30					DOWN 35.09
OIL	1.47					UP 0.02
All Shares Index	751.19					UP 4.37
Composite	1,294.09					DOWN 3.10
NO. OF ADVANCES: 34; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 108; NO. OF TRADES: 1,959						

DISCLOSURES

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. clarified there was nothing concrete about the reported plans that it intends to set up a separate company that will venture into property development using the bank's foreclosed assets. This was just a theoretical answer to a question posed by a reporter.

ASIAN Terminals Inc. clarified that the company did not receive any report regarding movement in stock ownership of Eusebio Tanco for December 2000, January 2001 and April 2001.

GLOBE Telecom announced that effective Sept. 24, the company will be included in the index of the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE).

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings Inc., acquired 25,000 shares of Robinsons Land Corp. at P1.98 per share, 100,000 shares of Universal Robina Corp. at P4.70 per share and 35,000 shares of Robinsons Land Corp. at P1.94 per share.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. announced that it has initiated cash tender offers to purchase any and all of its outstanding 8.5-percent notes due 2003 and 10.625-percent notes due 2004.

THE LISTING of 344.22 million common shares of FII-Estate Land Inc. is on Sept. 12. Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Sept 11, 2001				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.111605	1.000000	51.2850
Japan	Yen	0.009193	0.008270	0.4241
United Kingdom	Pound	1.620831	1.458100	74.7787
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142697	0.128370	6.5835
Switzerland	Franc	0.659276	0.593085	30.4164
Canada	Dollar	0.711792	0.640328	32.8392
Singapore	Dollar	0.635312	0.571527	29.3108
Australia	Dollar	0.570054	0.512821	26.3000
Bahrain	Dinar	2.948712	2.652661	136.0417
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296428	0.266667	13.6760
Brunei	Dollar	0.634840	0.571102	29.2890
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024912	0.022411	1.1493
UAE	Dirham	0.302725	0.272331	13.9665
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000781	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.899600	46.1360
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.459958	23.5899
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137143	7.0334
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.408221	20.9356
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065376	3.3528
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022301	1.1437
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000465	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151302	7.7595
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004487	0.2307
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005407	0.2777
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022301	1.1437
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.142256	58.5806

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Globe Handyphone introduces 'virtual storage' service

HAVE you ever needed to store a special text message or a new contact number on your SIM memory but you did not have the memory to do it?

Globe Handyphone, the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom, has recently introduced the country's first and only cellphone "virtual storage" system with its new Globe StorIt service.

Globe StorIt provides Globe Handyphone subscribers instant memory upgrade: giving them access to a sizeable memory capacity that can conveniently store up to 500 text messages and 300 phone book entries.

Globe Handyphone's StorIt service stores the files into a free Globe StorIt

account that the subscriber can access using his or her cellphone. Files stored in the Globe StorIt service can be easily retrieved by the subscriber anytime and anywhere.

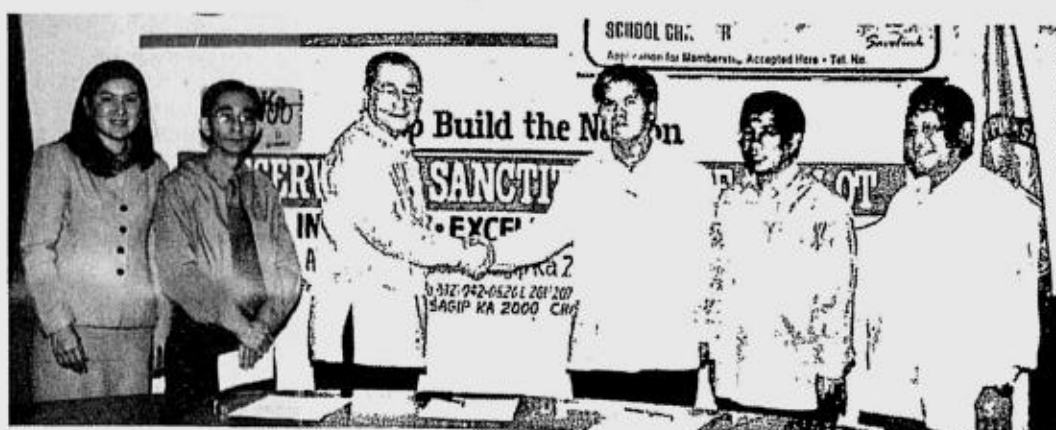
Using Globe StorIt to store files also means that Globe subscribers can free up the memory of their SIM cards and cellphones for new messages and other entries.

To start using the Globe StorIt service of Globe Handyphone, subscribers need only to send any file that they want to store to the "2377" service number of Globe StorIt. Saved text messages can be stored in the Globe StorIt service by forwarding these messages to

"2377". Phone book entries can be saved by forwarding these entries in business card formats to the same number.

The messages and entries can be retrieved at any later point using the service as easily as they were stored. A complete list of commands on how to use the Globe StorIt service can be acquired by keying in text message SI Help and sending this to "2377".

Globe StorIt accounts and its memory capacity are provided and maintained for all Globe Handyphone subscribers, both plan and prepaid. Sending and retrieval rates for plan subscribers are P2 while rates for Prepaid Plus subscribers are P2.50.



PRUDENTIAL GUARANTEE, DECS MOA SIGNING

Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc., in cooperation with Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation Inc. has given free death benefit assistance to more than 500,000 public school teachers during the May 14 elections. In close collaboration with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the MOA signed recently provided for additional financial assistance to the teachers' families. Standing (from left) are Prudential Guarantee account officer Ditas Bona, Prudential Guarantee vice president for accident and health Johnny Hernandez, Prudential Guarantee president Philip K. Rico, DECS Undersecretary Ramon Bacani, Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation president Brother Manuel V. De Leon and Sagip Ka executive director Rufino Policarpo.

Gloria commends NIIT-Manila Center opening on Taft Avenue

NIIT, the world's largest information technology training institution and software development company, formally opened its Manila center at Mezzanine Level, Joshua Center, 1428 Taft Avenue, Manila recently.

NIIT Taft thus joined the network of five local NIIT centers and 2,073 NIIT centers around the world with the objective of preparing Filipinos for the best IT jobs here and abroad. With over 200 students since its first batch of enrollees last April, the center offers state-of-the-art facilities, highly skilled staff and the latest and industry-relevant IT courses in the Philippines.

NIIT Philippines is an exclusive license under Mind Stream Inc. in which e-PLDT is the major shareholder, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Company.

In a message read for her by Mind Stream board chair Francisco A. Dizon, president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the inauguration of NIIT Taft "signifies another invaluable contribution to our efforts to develop the Philippine ICT industry."

The President also commended NIIT "for its partnership in developing ICT competency among our people."

"The establishment of NIIT Philippines has given Filipinos the opportunity to receive highly competitive IT education that will prepare them for today's competitive environment," she said.

Dr. Flora Go, who represented Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, graced the ribbon-cutting ceremony. She was assisted by Dizon, NIIT Philippines president Bartolome "Jay" Silayan and NIIT Taft Center manager Berna S. Serrano.

NIIT is the largest global IT company engaged in IT education and training, software development consultancy and knowledge solutions. It is the first IT education and training company to be conferred MSC status; Microsoft best training partner in Asia; first independent courseware vendor for Microsoft outside the United States and ISO 9001 certified curriculum.

Over the years since it was established in 1981, NIIT has been undertaking prestigious projects for large corporations worldwide.



MWIP ACQUIRES HP SOLUTION

Hewlett-Packard (HP) Philippines, a leading provider of computing and printing solutions, was recently tapped by water utility company Manila Water Inc., Philippines (MWIP) for its Mega Form solution. In a bid to automate its bill printing process, MWIP acquired the HP Mega Form Server Host Printing System and four units of HP LaserJet 8100 to print bills with consumer detail, graphical representation and usage barcode in faster speeds. Under the solution, MWIP is able to drastically reduce printing time from six to eight hours to only four hours. The solution also allows the water company to create more accurate and detailed bill printouts. Shown are (from left) Ding Carpio, chief information officer of MWIP; HP Philippines president and general manager Raymond del Val; and Edward Hizon, HP Philippines business development manager.



MICROWAREHOUSE, PACIFIC INTERNET PACT

Microwarehouse, leading distributor of Palm and US Robotics products in the Philippines, has signed a memorandum of agreement with Pacific Internet wherein buyers of US Robotics modems and Palm handhelds from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 will get five hours of free trial Internet access from Pacific Internet. If they eventually decide to subscribe to Pacific Internet, they will get an additional 15 free surfing hours, which will be credited to their account on their third, sixth and ninth month of subscription. Only non-Pacific Internet subscribers may avail of this promo. Shown are Fara Rodriguez, Microwarehouse product manager for Palm; Anne Aya-ay, Pacific Internet associate manager for strategic partnerships, and Aya C. Palmera, Microwarehouse marketing communications manager.



DOH'S STAMP OUT DENGUE CAMPAIGN

Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Bayer Phils. stamp out dengue through fogging. In a joint effort to assist the DOH in its program to quell the onslaught of the dengue disease, Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Bayer Phils. Environmental Health conducted thermal fogging in Barangay Queensrow East in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite. Senator Magsaysay handles the fogging machine used in the operations as Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo (third from left) Bayer Environmental Health Segment manager Jojo Dueñas (fourth from left) and Casimiro Townhomes Homeowner's Association president Benjie Sumadsad (extreme left) look on.



LIVE DEMO AT DERMCLINIC

Dermclinic, the true skin and hair care clinic, recently concluded a live product demonstration of Restylane and Perlane. Restylane and Perlane are one of the newest dermal fillers in the market which is fast gaining popularity. Already No. 1 in Europe, it is fast taking over the North American market. Its popularity as an injectable aesthetic treatment is based primarily on the fact that it is non-animal based and relatively longer lasting. Restylane and Perlane present totally no risk from cross-contamination, allergic reaction and diseases from animal-based products. Restylane works with the body's own skin substances to smooth away wrinkles. Shown is Q-Med (manufacturer of Restylane and Perlane) clinical director Debie Bottema conducting the training together with the consultants and dermatologists of Dermclinic.

FriendlyCare opens new clinic

FriendlyCare Foundation Inc. formally opened its eighth clinic on Sept. 2. This newest clinic is at the Metrolane Complex on P. Tuazon Street corner 20th Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City. The other clinics are located in Novaliches, Quezon City; San Juan, Metro Manila; Barangay Malinao, Pasig City; Sangandaan, Caloocan City; and in Davao and Cebu cities. FriendlyCare provides low-cost, high-quality services in family planning, reproductive health, child survival, and maternal and adolescent health in the private sector. It is funded by the United States Agency for International Development, with technical expertise provided by the Johns Hopkins University.

Bingo for a cause

High School Class 1977 of St. Theresa's College in Quezon City will sponsor an afternoon of bingo games on Sunday, Sept. 16, at the UP Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City. Dubbed as "Bingo Fusion 2001," the activity will benefit the Sambayanan Educational Foundation Inc. and the HE Cares Foundation for street children of Metro Manila. Among the prizes are a trip to Boracay, a 20-inch color TV, a VCD player, a cassette player with CD, and a kitchen showcase. Tickets will be available at the entrance to Bahay ng Alumni. The games start at 2 p.m. For more information, call 635-2154 and 635-6522, or the St. Theresa's Alumnae Association office at 740-1115.

Caceres celebrates 50 years as Archdiocese

AS all roads lead to Naga City from Sept. 7 to 16 for the fiesta celebration of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, the patroness of Bicolandia, its local church will simultaneously celebrate the culmination of the Golden Jubilee of Caceres as an Archdiocese. Elevated as an Archdiocese on June 29, the local church of Caceres will mark the Solemn Closing Ceremonies on Sept. 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Cathedral Grounds. The Apostolic Nuncio, Most. Rev. Antonio Franco, D.D. will preside over the Eucharistic Celebrations with all the Bicolano Bishops and the clergy from the entire region. The organizers are anticipating thousands of pilgrims from all over the country to attend the said historic gathering. Most Rev. Leonardo Z. Legazpi, OP, DD, Archbishop of Caceres, has personally extended his invitation, through his Pastoral Letter "Do whatever He tells you-Fashioning our Future" to every Bicolano to join this solemn occasion of the Metropolitan See of Caceres with its suffragan Dioceses of Legazpi, Sorsogon, Masbate, Virac, Daet and the Prelature of Libmanan.



1ST KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS IN DAVAO

Kenny Rogers Roasters recently opened its very first franchise outlet in Davao City. There to make the occasion memorable were (from left) Terry Yap, Kenny Rogers Roasters franchise manager; Frederick See Dy, Davao franchisee and DHL Roasters Business Inc. (DRBI) president Bernadine Sly, Kenny Rogers Roasters president, and Samson Ang, DRBI secretary. For franchising inquiries, call Terry Yap at 893-6057, 893-2343, 893-1021 and 840-2341.



PHILAMLIFE NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

In celebration of the company's national family day for its outstanding agents, Philamlife recently signed a contract with Enchanted Kingdom, the Philippines' first world-class all year round theme park. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are Enchanted Kingdom vice president for marketing and business development Dennis N. Cruz (left) and Philamlife EVP and chief marketing officer Jesus G. Hofileña (right). Also shown are (from left) Enchanted Kingdom wizard and zone host (rightmost), Philamlife first vice president and director of Metro Manila agencies Manny Esquerro and Enchanted Kingdom assistant manager for group sales and services Pamela P. Davila.



CFBCI HOSTS PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO CHINATOWN

The Chinese Filipino Business Club Inc. (CFBCI) recently organized the historic visit to Chinatown by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The luncheon program hosted by the CFBCI was attended by the prominent leaders of the Chinese Filipino community.

Mahathir urges Asean to unite at WTO meeting

SINGAPORE—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged Southeast Asian nations Monday to form a united front in upcoming world trade negotiations and oppose the inclusion of non-trade issues.

Repeating past attacks against alleged domination by industrial countries of the developing world, he said such issues as labor standards, human rights, democracy and child labor must be discussed in other forums.

"The rich countries had taken more than a century to reach their present status of social, economic and political sophistication," he said at a gathering of Southeast Asian businessmen.

"It is unrealistic to expect developing countries to achieve such levels of sophistication overnight. Linking these issues with trade and investments will surely impose tremendous strains on poor developing countries."

A new round of liberalization talks was expected to be launched during the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar in November, but there is disagreement over the scope of the talks.

Mahathir said Southeast Asian countries must come to a consensus to review the existing WTO agreements, and then draw up an agenda "which must exclude extraneous matters" being pushed by industrial economies.

He issued his latest attack on rich countries and globalization during an awards ceremony in Singapore honoring him and Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew for their contributions to Southeast Asia.

The Asean or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **AFP**

Bush sees US economic recovery

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush is convinced he can lift the US economy out of its slump, his spokesperson said Monday, as fellow Republicans fretted over signs of a deterioration.

"The President is going to continue to keep his eye on the economy because he believes that the economic recovery plan will bring the economy back and is bringing the economy back," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

"And he will be open-minded about possible other ideas."

The economy has moved center stage politically since data out Friday showed the unemployment rate surging in August to 4.9 percent from 4.5 percent in July, dampening expectations of a recovery soon.

Bush has warned the US Congress against any effort to roll back parts of the 11-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut he promises will return the

economy to good health.

But economic growth skidded to an annual rate of just 0.2 percent in the second quarter.

And US business economists cut their forecast for US growth in 2001 to 1.6 percent from 2 percent, according to a National Association for Business Economists (Nabe) survey released Monday.

They still expected the economy to avoid recession and recover later this year or early next year.

Some Republicans, nevertheless, are raising the possibility of further action to spur growth.

Senate Republican Minority Leader Trent Lott said a cut in the capital gains tax could help the economy further.

"Capital gains tax rate cut is one that I have always been attracted to, it has historically always caused a spurt in the economy," Lott told reporters.

Spending could be cut across the board if a diminishing budget surplus threatened to eat into the politically-sensitive surplus in the social security, or pension, accounts.

Robert Glenn Hubbard, one of Bush's economic advisers, said the US economy remained stuck in a period of sub-par growth but a recovery was likely this year.

"Growth rates are not acceptable," he told the National Association of Business Economists.

But "internally, we expect growth to pick up at the end of 2001 and the beginning of 2002," Hubbard said.

He stressed that the full impact of Bush's tax cut program, which includes about \$40 billion in rebates over nearly three months from July, had yet to be felt.

Analysts say Bush is in a tight spot, however, because he repeatedly promised not to use money in the Social Security trust fund to pay

for other government expenses.

That means he has barely any extra money to spend to jolt the economy out of the doldrums.

"I think realistically now they are truly worried," said Institute for International Economics economist Gary Hufbauer. "It is a pretty big political issue for them right now."

Bush's choices were limited, he added.

For the Democrats, a recession would help them in the mid-term elections in November next year, Hufbauer said. The polls are for the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and for one third of the Senate, where the Democrats have a wafer-thin majority.

Bush had a choice of either eating his words about not touching the social security surplus or, more likely, of nudging the Federal Reserve into even deeper interest rate cuts, said Hufbauer. **AFP**

US adviser says Japan economy in dire straits IMF to cut 2001 global forecast

NEW YORK—The Japanese economy has dire structural problems and Tokyo has underestimated its banks' bad loans, President George W. Bush's chief economic advisor said Monday.

"In Japan, the problems are not just cyclical, but they are dire, structural ones," White House economic expert Robert Glenn Hubbard told the National Association of Business Economists.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's reform plans, which include erasing banks' problem loans while capping state bond issues to rein in national debt, were on the right track, Hubbard said.

"But they will take time to have an effect," he said.

The Japanese banking problem was "quite severe," Bush's advisor added.

"We think the government underestimated the non-performing loan problem," he said.

Non-performing assets were an even bigger problem, he said. The return on investment capital in Japan was "way too low."

The state of the Japanese economy "is something we both look at and worry about," Hubbard said.

Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's Nikkei-225 average hit a new 17-year low Monday, falling 3.1 percent to 10,195.69, as pessimism grew over US recovery prospects and amid growing impa-

tience over a lack of concrete reforms to emerge from Koizumi's Cabinet.

Japan's economy shrank 0.8 percent in the June quarter from the previous three months, according to figures released last week.

The IMF has asked the Japanese government to accept a team of experts who would assess the financial system, including the extent of problem loans at banks, which run into hundreds of billions of dollars.

Hubbard said overseas economic growth and any unexpected slowdown in US consumer spending posed the two biggest risks to a US recovery, which he expected later this year.

Growth in the 12-nation euro zone had been disappointing, he said. **AFP**

BERLIN—The International Monetary Fund is set to lower its forecast for global economic growth for this year to 2.7 percent from 3.2 percent, IMF managing director Horst Koehler said on Monday.

"We will again lower our forecasts for the world economy to 2.7 percent this year and to 3.6 percent next year," Koehler said at a news conference here.

In its previous world economic outlook published in May, the IMF had been predicting global growth of 3.2 percent for 2001 and 3.9 percent for 2002.

Koehler said he assumed that the world economy would begin to recover toward the end of this year. But it was worrying that the economies of all big industrialized countries were slowing. **AFP**

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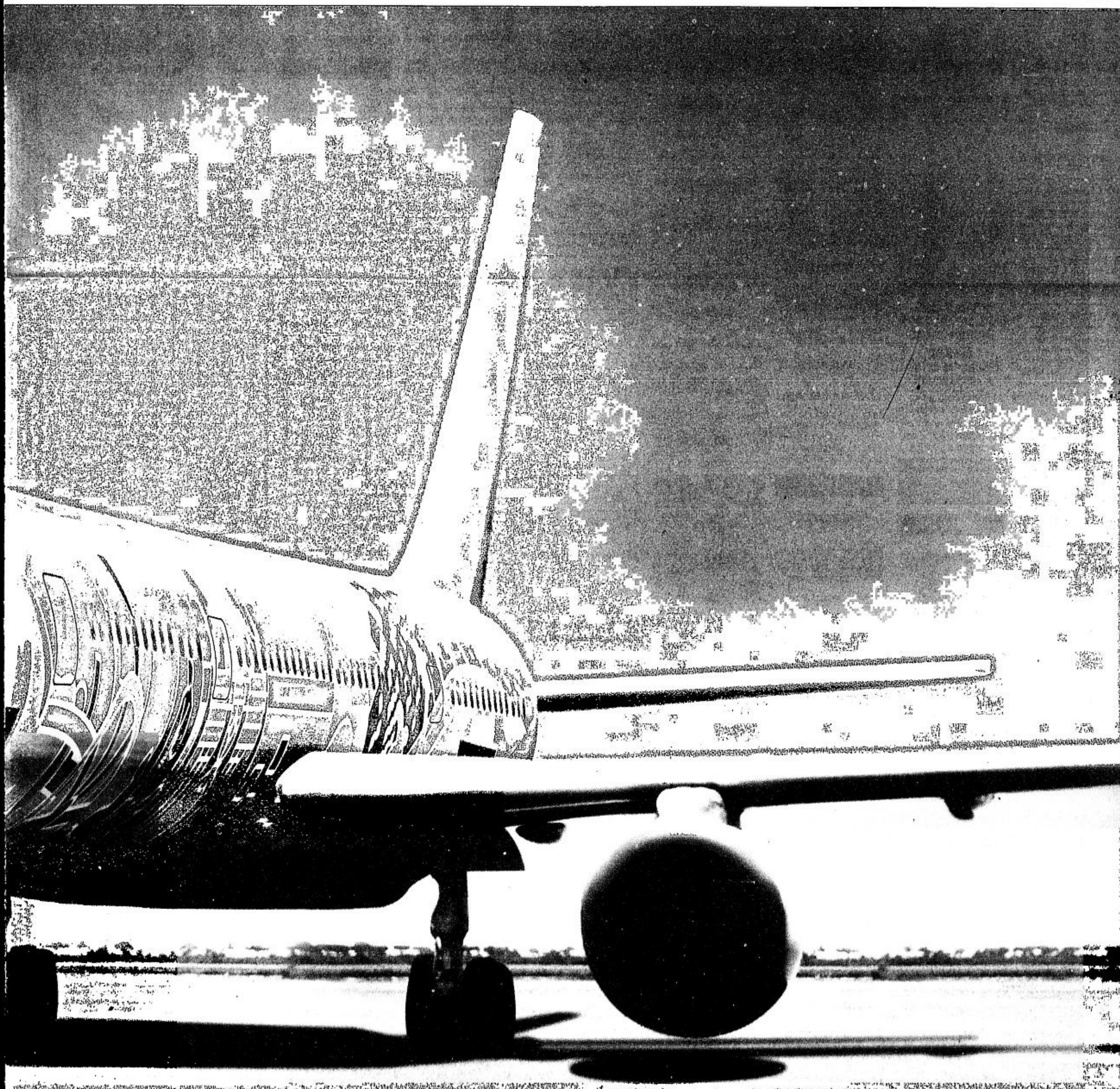
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SSB Cupang, Muntinlupa City MALE/FEMALE •8 ofc Staff 9168033 Arlene Adm Staff 9134470 Adonis CARE GIVER T5280722 Clerk Sec. 7136116 Ruth Male/Female cook/service crew 911-9380 OFC STAFF 4376847 Joyce OFC STAFF 8814843 Camil Ofc Staff 9134470 Helen •Urgent! 18 Ofc Personnel 18-45yo w/or w/o exp Direct Start ASAP! 9134470 HAZEL Urgent Male/female Med- Tech & X-ray Tech 892- 3758 WTD: Yaya/H. Malda/EngChi Tcher, Fam. Cook 6604589 PUBLIC NOTICES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES TAXI 4 Sale 4030 Yague St., Makati 895-1630 EARN UNLIMITED INCOME JEWELLERY ON CONSIGNMENT VERY EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS CALL OUR 8390004 HOT LINES: 8390060 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES Work From Home 8937903 LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE is given that the late ANGELITO U. POLINTAN is extrajudi- cially settled among his heirs as per Doc#250, Page #52, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Felix D. Rodriguez of Mkt. Dec. 31. 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This is to inform the public that Official Receipts bearing Serial Nos. 004-0050 belonging to Value Plus Bags & Leathergoods Mktg., with address at Block 9, Lot 26 Parkland Est., Mandalay, Marikina City, are hereby declared stolen and lost. Notice is hereby given that Value Plus Bags & Leathergoods will not honor any transaction using said official receipts.

For any information or knowledge on the use of these stolen receipts, please relay the same to:
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 (PDI-Sept. 12, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers, Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT
 THANK YOU ST. JUDE

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit
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The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of



Country Bankers Insurance Group

announce with deep sorrow the untimely demise of their beloved
 Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors

DR. PROCOPIO C. REYES

who joined his Creator on September 8, 2001.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio
 Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 13, 2001 at
 the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
 after the 9:00 AM Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, donations to
 The Tahanang Walang Hagdan and Home for the Aged
 will be greatly appreciated.

DAVID "DENNIS" TIOSECO STA. INES III

September 7, 1969 - September 10, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator
 on September 10, 2001 at the age of 32.

His loving parents Jun and Racquel; brother
 Daniel; sisters Dana & Doris; sister-in-law Arlyn
 Dantes; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, other
 relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray
 for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in
 San Nicolas, Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001
 at the Gapan Catholic Cemetery after the 9:30 A.M.
 Mass at the Three Kings Parish Church.

VICTORIO TOLENTINO CRUZ

of Sta. Cruz, Hagonoy, Bulacan

passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
 on September 8, 2001 at the age of 64.

His dearest wife GRACE; children KAREN & JONJON Sunico and DADA;
 granddaughter RENEE VICTORIA; brothers, sister and in-laws; nieces, nephews, other relatives
 and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City,
 where Holy Masses will be offered daily at 6:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora,
 Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

ADELAIDA BENITEZ ASENETA

Died in the Grace of our Lord
 on September 6, 2001
 at the age of 87.

Her beloved children Eddie, Hermie
 and Baby; daughter-in-law, sons-in-law,
 together with grandchildren and great
 grandchildren, brothers, sisters-in-law,
 brother-in-law, relatives and friends,
 request the pious readers to pray for the
 eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on September 12,
 2001, Wednesday after the 2:00 PM
 Mass at Albay Cathedral Church,
 Albay, Legazpi City.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

ATTY. KARLO Q. BUTIONG

former Councilor, City of Manila

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on
 September 1, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and
 sincerest appreciation to all those who offered
 Masses and prayers, sent flowers and
 message of sympathy, and who in
 countless ways, consoled with and
 comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

APOLONIO FAJARDO ANDREY

of Atimonan, Quezon

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 8, 2001
 at the age of 82.

We, his bereaved family, wife Puring; children Rudy and
 Lourdes, Nelia and Juanito, Tessie and Tony, Efrén and Myrna,
 Darwin and Chit, Msgr. Willy, Teody and Emma, Arthur and
 Sussie, Malou and Joe, Judith and Abel; grandchildren, great
 grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to
 pray with them for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of the Angels Credit
 Cooperative, Inc. Building, Atimonan, Quezon. Interment will be
 on Thursday, September 13, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at
 Our Lady of the Angels Parish Church, Atimonan, Quezon.

DR. FEDERICO NERA FLORENDO JR.

MD, UP Class 1940
 MPH, Harvard University, 1948
 Board Certified in Anatomical & Clinical Pathology
 Former Director, Silliman University Medical Center

Died on 21 August 2001 at Dumaguete City

We are grateful to God for his life of dedicated service as medical doctor,
 civic leader, church pillar, in the Philippines and in the United States.
 We also thank all those who had in any way, provided help,
 encouragement, inspiration to him during the 85 years of his fruitful
 life, and gave comfort and assistance to his family during their
 bereavement.

His beloved wife DR. PURIFICACION
 TADIAR FLORENDO & Family.

MR. DANIEL S. DOMINGO SR.

Joined his Creator on September 8, 2001.

His wife Linda Tongson; children Marlene Cordova,
 Daniel Jr. and Lita, Cecil and Vic Bermudez;
 grandchildren, brothers and sisters,
 request the pious readers for the repose of his soul.

Body lies in state at the Sto. Domingo Church,
 Quezon City

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting
 tribute to your departed loved one.

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Whoever finds his life will lose it,
 and whoever loses his life
 for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: 1 Copy of Death Certificate 2 Any identification document (I.D.)
 WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinos@inquirer.com.ph



TOP OMEGA EXECUTIVE IN MANILA

Oliver Hugentobler (center), Omega sales and marketing project manager, was recently in Manila to strengthen the ties between Omega watch and the Philippines. Hugentobler, who is primarily responsible for overseeing Omega's sales operations in the Philippines, Indonesia and Indo-China, commended the growing Omega market in the country during his brief stay. A part of the renowned Swatch Group, Omega, the timepiece known for its elegance and precision, has been in the world market for over 150 years. Also shown are (from left) FE Zuellig luxury division general manager Louie Vargas and Omega brand manager Martin Lacson.



LES CLEFS D'OR CITATIONS

The Philippine chapter of the hotel concierges association, the Les Clefs d'Or, through its president Andy Pongco (left), concurrently the third vice president of the Union Internationale des Concierges d'Hotels, presented Mandarin Oriental, Manila general manager Helmut Gaisberger (second from right) with an honorary membership in recognition of his support to the organization. Gaisberger has also been invited by the UICH as a speaker in its First Asian Congress to be held in Singapore in August. Also shown are Mandarin Oriental's Rick Lopez, chief of concierge and vice president of the Les Clefs d'Or Philippines, who also received the Golden Cross Keys pins, and rooms division director Gigi Vega.

Batangas City hosts 1st Southern Tagalog e-Commerce congress

EVENTONE Inc. recently announced that the 1st Southern Tagalog e-Commerce Congress and Exhibit will be held at the University of Batangas Multi-Purpose Hall in Batangas City on September 29-30.

Among the topics covered are: Status and Trends of e-Commerce in the Philippines; e-Governance and the Public Sector; e-Governance Initiatives; Bringing the Internet to the Grassroots; e-Business 101; Internetworking and Community Services; Going into e-Business: Creating Effective Business Plan.

Tapping into Funding Sources (Angels, VCs, investor banks); The Legal Side of e-Business; Creating Killer Applications for e-Business; Crafting a Content Strategy that Works; and; Effective Internet and Marketing Strategies.

Case studies will focus on entrepreneurship, online shopping, ecotourism, online trading; B2B, B2C, e-payment solutions and online hiring and recruitment.

Other areas of discussion include Effective Web Communications to Manage Knowledge and Intellectual Capital; Backend Solutions Fulfillment; The Importance of Statistics in Knowledge-based Economy; Security and Privacy; Protecting Intellectual Property on the Internet, and; Educational Preparedness of Filipinos for Electronic Commerce.

Local organizer is Greatbay in

cooperation with Los Angeles-based outfit Agiw.com, Inc., DigitalFilipino, Batangas Public Information Office, BPI Internet Banking, MARINA, Upcom, UCPB 1time, DZBR Radio Balisong, BayRadio 104.7, Malaysian Group of eNetworkers, Immigration Network Services, Binondo Media, INQ7.net, Oracle, Verde Island Resort, Datablade, myAyala.com, PinoyDelikasi and Iskul.org.

The event is open to accountants/auditors, bank officials and employees, church leaders, civic-oriented groups, communications officers, computer shop owners, cooperative officers, home-based entrepreneurs, hotel and restaurant managers, industrial park locators, internet cafe operators, internet service providers, job hunters, lawyers, local government units, mall owners and tenants, media/PR personalities, personnel managers/HR staff, purchasers, salesmen/marketing people, teachers and students, traders/merchants, travel-related business operators, venture capitalists and webdesigners/webmasters.

Awards shall be given to Best e-Commerce-oriented Province in Southern Tagalog, Best Booth, Best Exhibitor and Top Event Promoter.

Interested parties may visit www.thegreatbay.com/stcongress or email mdherera@hotmail.com. They may call 0917-441-0064 for details.



\$300-M PHILIP MORRIS PLANT BREAKS GROUND

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads guests in lowering the time capsule during the groundbreaking rites for Philip Morris Philippines' \$300-million plant at the First Philippine Industrial Park (FPI) in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. With the President are (from left) Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Philip Morris Asia president Duck Y. Song, and PMPh managing director George Farah. Looking on are local officials led by Gov. Hermilando Mandanas.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL WINS HIRIT TO MILLIONS

25-year-old Christopher Navarro is richer by P500,000, having won this cash windfall in the QuickChow and Beam Toothpaste "Hirit to Millions." The young audio engineer trainee showed boldness by increasing the money at stake and guessing the answer correctly. Instead of winning just P50,000, he risked it all and bagged half a million pesos. "I thought that I should go for it and win big," says Chris. This contest was aired on DZRH, Yes-FM and Love Radio. The weekly Hirit to Millions Live Show was held at the Robinsons Place in Malate Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Shown is Tet del Rosario, product manager of QuickChow (left) handing the check for half a million pesos to lucky Chris.

SOLD OUT --- because we don't sell out.



Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide? Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across all age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

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Career change is cure for work malaise

BY JOSIE O. SANTAMARIA

(This is the start of a four-part article on career change for people who feel it's time to make a switch.)

THE SYMPTOMS are there:

- You look forward to Fridays and dread Mondays.
- You feel tired even in the morning.
- You are bored with what you do.
- You sigh and frown when you work.
- You frequently look at your watch to see if it's *merienda* or lunch time or time to leave.
- You extend *merienda* or lunch time.
- You experience headaches, stomachaches, diarrhea and other similar illnesses that justify absences, tardiness or frequent visits to the clinic.
- You make "*telebad*" and visit the comfort room often.
- You are only happy when it's payday.
- At closing time, you dash to the door.

These are signs that you should start thinking of changing your career. Staying on will not be good for your physical health and emotional and mental well being. You may not realize that if you don't like your job and you feel unhappy about it, this shows in the quality and quantity of your work, eventually affecting your career moves. Thus, planning a career change at this point is what you should do when you experience any or

several of the above signs.

Reasons for staying

In the US, experts say that Americans make anywhere from three to six career changes during their lifetimes. On the other hand, many Filipinos tend to hold on to a job even if it's no longer satisfying and fulfilling. Why? The reasons a person stays in a job are usually external to the job.

Some stay because they are loyal to and like the owners of the company or their bosses. Others don't leave because their jobs pay well and they are able to send their children to school and/or are able to maintain a desired lifestyle.

A few think, "I've been doing this kind of work 10, 15, 20 years or longer, so why change? I will just wait until I retire. *Sayang naman 'yung 20 years ko* with the company and the hefty retirement pay." Some stay because their companies have "golden handcuffs" such as attractive perks, bonuses, travel packages, housing and car loans, etc.

Still, others have come to enjoy deeply rooted friendships and personal relationships—their co-employees have become their *compadres*, *ninong* or *inaanak sa binyag* or *sa kasal*.

Job "parachute"

In the classic career book, "What Color Is Your Parachute?" author Richard Nelson Bolles, who updates the book every year, emphasizes that every job hunt is a potential career change. Bolles defines career as "occupation + field."

By occupation, he refers to what one does and likes doing

using one's skills and talents. The operative word in his definition of occupation is the word "like." Sometimes, one is in an occupation and field that one doesn't like and even abhor. In this case, one has a job but not a career. Sometimes one is forced to take a job one doesn't like because of circumstances. Or one took a course in college because parents or friends pressured him to take that course or it was the popular course at the time.

Bolles defines field as where one likes to practice his occupation. For example, a management consultant is an occupation while a field could be a healthcare company, an engineering facility, a food chain, a country club or a health maintenance organization.

Career categories

When considering career change, one must be aware of career categories. Careers can be roughly classified into four broad categories: 1) careers that require working with people, 2) careers that revolve around data or information, 3) careers that focus on ideas and 4) careers that involve things or objects.

Careers can also be grouped as follows:

1. Social careers

These involve interacting with people to help and serve them or to solve their problems and concerns. Examples are careers in education and human resources development and training, community work and social services, and healthcare, medical, dental or psychological professions.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAYO

2. Enterprising careers

These involve interacting with people to influence and persuade them to a course of action or to make choices that will result in personal or economic gain for a group or organization. Examples are careers in management, sales and marketing, banking, media and politics.

3. Investigative careers

These involve the gathering, processing and analyzing of information and data. Examples are careers in the sciences, mathematics, IT and research and development.

4. Realistic careers

These involve the use of the hands, tools, objects and equipment to handle, manipulate and create things. Examples are professional and technical occupations in engineering, aviation, forestry and agriculture.

5. Artistic careers

These involve the creation of ideas in a free and unstructured environment such as careers in language, art, music, drama and literary pursuits.

6. Conventional careers

These involve following and implementing policies, procedures and systems such as accounting and administrative careers.

There is no career, though, that is focused solely and exclusively on one area. Almost all careers require a combination of two or several areas. A medical career combines social and investigative aspects. A dental career, besides being social and investigative, is also realistic.

The main tasks of a career identify its category. A programmer, for example, may work with a team to give a solution to a client (a characteristic of an enterprising career) but his main tasks are primarily the encoding, analyzing and synthesizing of data. Thus, a programmer's career is investigative in nature.

Another example is a teacher whether in a university, college, secondary or elementary school. A teacher's job involves delivering the subject matter in a creative and interesting way to learners. This requires research, planning and organizing the subject matter, a characteristic of an investigative career. It also requires coming up with innovative ways of communicating the subject to the learners, a trait of an artistic career.

(The author is president of Career Systems, Inc., a consultancy and training firm specializing in career development services and programs for organizations and individuals. Send feedback to her e-mail address carsys @qinet.net.)

Why non-MBA...

(From page B16)

poking and she found out that I write for enjoyment and as a form of self-therapy. I suspected she was trying to gradually point out something to me.

I was getting riled that our talk was taking so long and going nowhere. "Am I qualified or not?" I asked her, of course in a more civil manner. She replied, "Actually, uh, you lack the, uh, minimum requirement of experience in research work." In my mind, I replied, "Then why the bleep did you ask me to come at all? Why not cut to the chase?"

Ms Interviewer exhibited a nice facade until the end. Her smile said, "You're someone nice to have around the office." When we were about to part, I acted like a jerk—I didn't know how to thank her for the compliment.

Done deal

Weeks later, I would learn from an insider (a close friend of mine) that the interview was all for show, meant to comply with the Civil Service Commission's routine procedures. The truth was, my friend said, the job hunt was a done deal. Someone with better connection, an "MBA" holder, and not necessarily with better qualifications, already snagged the job.

To people who hire, I beg you to please go straight to the point. If you don't like me, say so. Don't be so unkind as to torture me with the contrivance of a funny choreography. But alas, hiring employees is not just a simple dance routine. There are unwritten rules to be followed. There is a system of *palakasan* involved, a stinking system where almost everyone is guilty. There are people already recommended by so-and-so before the hunt for applicants even begins.

I'm not pretending I didn't know of such practices before. Perhaps I'm sore because in these two instances, I was a direct victim. If it were someone else, perhaps I would've just shrugged my shoulders like an ape, implicitly in cahoots with the system.

Self-esteem

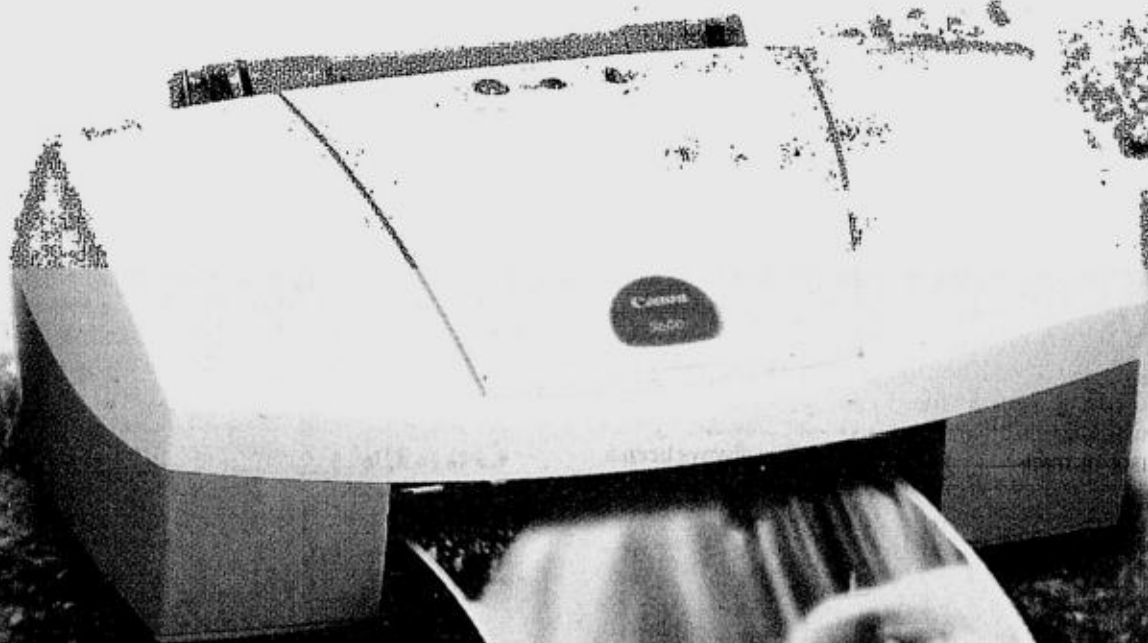
But one of the few things that gives me some amount of healthy self-esteem is the fact that I earned a UP diploma without having to bribe my way. The world simply never worked like that while I was a student, at least during my time. But the minute I left the portals of university education, I was rudely awakened with an ugly reality.

We Filipinos claim to be a democracy but our playing field shows it's a bare-faced lie. We simply are not ready for it. The primacy of connections over merit is a long-entrenched way of doing things here, whether in government, industry and society in general, too entrenched to enable this country to make a step forward and gain the world's respect. Small wonder foreign investors avoid the Philippines like the plague.

Thank God I have good experiences as well. My best was the one I had with the US Embassy. Their HRD issues rejection letters that are straight to the point and truthful. I was surprised to find out that they mean it when they say, "Other equally qualified candidates made it. However, we will keep your resume in our file for one year." The HRD actually did and even called me up within that period to ask whether I was still interested. I'm not always a big fan of the US but I never wonder how it came to be the most powerful nation on earth.

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Restless yuppie searches for fulfilling job

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

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Three jobs in over a year is really not an enviable employment

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Working conditions

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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

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Poor teamwork is a 'time leak'

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1. Do they know the vision, mission, values and strategic goals of your organization?
2. Do they know the full range of your responsibilities and activities in your organization?
3. Can you leave the office for long periods of time confident that your business and personal affairs will be conducted responsibly and expeditiously in your absence?
4. Do you get help in organizing your time? Do you get subtle reminders of your appointments and schedules without being nagged?
5. Do your work mates initiate, handle and follow through on projects without your having to be reminded?
6. Are they courteous, helpful, respectful and solicitous of each other and of your other business associates, visitors and customers?
7. Are they imaginative and creative? Do they present original ideas? Do they suggest ways of improving work, yours and theirs?
8. Are they resourceful? Do they show initiative in getting past a prob-

lem without rousing everybody?

9. Do they move paper efficiently? Are they able to get needed data and information to complete their work?

10. Are they calm in crisis? Gracious when tension mounts? When the pressure is on and tempers fly, do they remain composed and continue to function "normally"?

11. Do they have the necessary knowledge and skills to do their respective jobs and help out others?

12. Do you have their absolute loyalty and confidence? Can you trust them with confidential information, both personal and business?

13. Do they read widely and knowledgeable, bring to your team's attention items pertinent to your business affairs?

14. Are they valuable sources of corporate information, obtaining facts that are difficult, awkward or impossible for you to obtain on your own?

15. Do they have their own personal improvement program? Do they attend courses or lectures relevant to their jobs and to the organization? Do they try to learn more about your company, your products and services, your customers, your industry?

16. Are they articulate? Are they able to express themselves well in written or oral communication situations?

17. Do they practice proper telephone techniques and etiquette? How is their business etiquette?

18. Do they know and understand fully company policies and procedures?

19. Do they work everyday until the job is done, regardless of the hour? Are they able to finish their job within working hours? Are they willing to work nights or weekends when necessary?

20. Do you have leaders among your work mates? Can each one del-

egate, supervise and take responsibility for work not completed in time? Are they able to train each other on each other's areas of responsibility?

21. Are they able to keep track of vital dates among the team—dates for celebration of important events for your company, for your customers, for each other and for your respective families like birthdays, anniversaries, religious holidays, vacations and such?

22. Can they handle routine matters and projects on a day-to-day basis without your intervention and close supervision?

23. Can they do basic research like gathering information for a report or even writing a rough first draft?

If you are unable to answer "yes" to any of these questions, these are your time leaks and might be the occasions when you and your work mates are not optimizing or even wasting your time. Then, you need to do something about these to improve the situation.

Provide everybody, even your clerk, with some leadership training. Time management is a leadership activity. It is the ability to master one's self and lead others. You don't need to be appointed supervisor or manager to be able to do that.

A big thank you to all those who attended our three-day People at Work Live! Seminar Series. The thousands of people who came to our seminar series, particularly those who paid for their tickets out of their own pockets, prove that working people are seeking and wanting to learn about their jobs and how to be more effective in their jobs. They came with a personal agenda for self-development. Congratulations to our participants! PDI and People at Work shall endeavor to have more of these kinds of activities. Our indefatigable editor, Ms Reggie Reyes, is even now planning to bring the People at Work Live! Seminar Series to business and industry centers in the country. *Abangan ninyo kami sa mga probinsiya, ha?* (Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino



How do you remain objective at work?

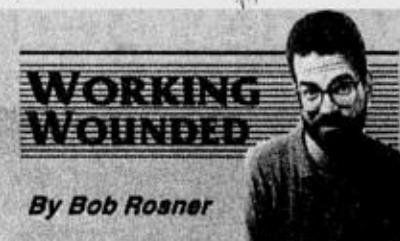
DEAR WW: My boss asked me to help choose our next computer system. I've always been a Mac guy and immediately launched into a speech about why Apples are best. He said I was biased and now doesn't want me involved.

Just One Look Was All It Took

Your letter reminded me of a wonderful bit of bias that occurred at my own wedding. My wife-to-be and I knew things would be interesting when my mother broke her hip the night before. The next day, since my mother couldn't attend the wedding, I asked a nurse if she'd mind if we showed up in our finery and had a little ceremony in my mother's room. "Not at all!" the nurse replied. Then, sensing a PR opportunity, she called "Big Nurse" to see if they could invite the media. "Of course not!" said Big Nurse. "If people knew you could get married in the hospital, everyone would want to get married in the hospital."

Talk about marriage! This woman was married to her weird opinion of hospitals! Reminds me of you and your opinion of Apple. Obviously you think Apple is the way to go, but if you want to impress your boss, you and your opinion better get a temporary divorce!

I turned to "Management Would Be Easy... If It Weren't for the People" by Patricia



By Bob Rosner

Addesso (Amacom, 1996) for some tips on how to be objective when evaluating information. This is a great book for managers and manager wannabes, and I've adapted the following questions from it.

1. Do you pay closer attention to information received first? Most of us tend to do that. Make sure you give equal consideration to the things you hear about second, third and fourth.
2. Do you put more weight on negative information than positive? It's odd, but true: negative information resonates. (Just look at how many politicians run dirty campaigns.) Make sure you don't disqualify positive information just because it's positive.
3. Do you pay more attention to information that comes from certain individuals? Like Claude Rains in "Casablanca," we all tend to round up our "usual suspects" when looking for input. But that can make us dangerously shortsighted. Ask, too, for input from people who disagree with you.
4. Do you focus only on "relevant" information? Southwest Airlines is famous for turning around its planes in 20 minutes. Did they

learn how to do that from other airlines? Nope. They learned it from pit crews at the Indy 500. Good decisions require you to look at every information source available, even if at first it seems irrelevant.

Now, I'm not saying you're wrong to want to go with Apple. (Protect me from the Mac believers out there!) I'm just saying you need to show your boss you're open to all the possibilities if you want to stay involved in the process. Otherwise, he'll think your ability to make an objective decision is rotten to the core.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which is the most difficult for you to remain objective about?

- My work, 43.1 percent
- My boss, 39.4 percent
- My coworkers, 18.3 percent

Our winning strategy for remaining objective at work comes from Brady C. in

Gainesville, FL. "Although it's only natural to read and talk with people that share your ideas and convictions, it also tends to insulate you from the other side of issues. I always seek out people who disagree with me. In business, one of the best sources of information is competing salespeople. I'd suggest your Mac guy go spend some time with an IBM salesman."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Reflections for the working soul

"When we act in opposition to our heart, defying our passion, we are left with feelings of emptiness, longing and unfulfillment. When we rule out passion, we introduce ourselves to a life of regret, a life of what-ifs. What if I had gone after my dreams? Could I have realized them?"

"Passionaters live with few regrets. They learn the lesson that is so hard for many: to achieve and preserve happiness by following your passion, you cannot give up more than you will gain. You must keep your eye on the prize, so to speak."

"The passioneer...treats passion thoughtfully, taking great care to protect it and nurture it, realizing that some sacrifice may be necessary to ensure its continued survival."

- From the book "The Passion Plan: A Step-by-Step Guide to Discovering, Developing and Living Your Passion" by Richard Chang

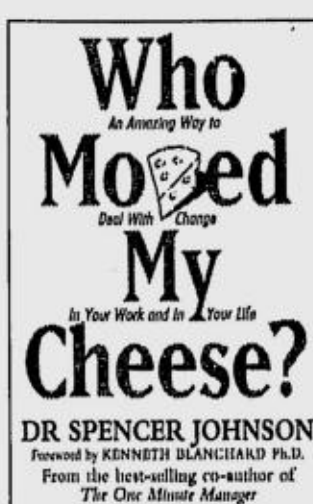
EDITOR'S PICKS

PEOPLE at work who missed attending the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Assertiveness in Communication, Negotiating Skills and Achieving Your Personal Vision or who would like additional references on these topics can take hold of the following books available at National Book Store.



Develop Your Assertiveness
By Sue Bishop
2000, Kogan Page Limited

Assertiveness seems not to have a niche in Pinoy interpersonal relations—or so it may seem. But in these days of the global economy, assertiveness is a handy communication style that can enable a person to make a positive impact, be more confident and achieve his goals. According to the author, assertiveness is "being able to express yourself with confidence without having to resort to passive, aggressive or manipulative behavior. It involves self-awareness, getting to know, like and be in charge of the real you." As a basic guide to developing an assertive communication style, this book merits a good look from people who want to stop being a wimp at work and grab those opportunities for growth and success.

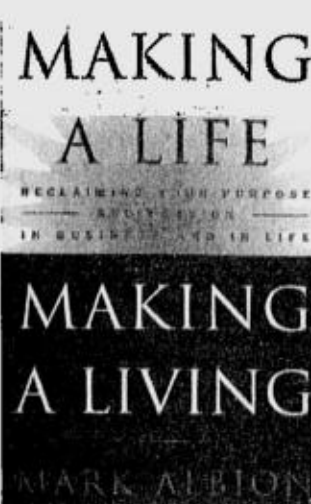


DR SPENCER JOHNSON
Foreword by KENNETH BLANCHARD PH.D.
From the best-selling co-author of
The One Minute Manager

case, cheeses) in life. Reading the book, and grasping its truths, is as easy as taking a picture and saying "cheese."

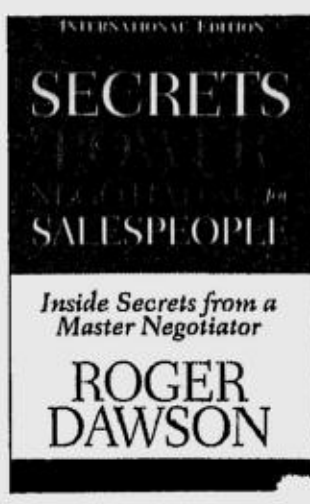
Who Moved My Cheese?
By Dr. Spencer Johnson
2000, GP Putnam's Sons

THE BOOK is a must read for people who clutch at stability even when change becomes inevitable. Throwing away the gobbledygook of "change management" theories, this book contains a simple parable that teaches people to embrace change so that they can more easily achieve their goals (or in this case, cheeses) in life. Reading the book, and grasping its truths, is as easy as taking a picture and saying "cheese."



Making A Life Making A Living
By Mark Albion
2000, Warner Books, Inc.

Making a living is what most people do. Making a life is sometimes what some people wrapped up in work forget to do. For those who want to reclaim their purpose and passion in business and in life, this book is worth reading. It answers four big questions: Who are you? What do you want? What can you do? Where can you go? The answers provided in the book can help you vanquish your personal angst.



Secrets of Power Negotiating for Salespeople
By Roger Dawson
2001, Pearson Education Asia Pte. Ltd.

The secrets of power negotiating are no longer secret with the release of this book. Everything you want to know about negotiating but were afraid to ask is in this book from beginning, middle and ending negotiating. Most importantly, techniques of power sales closing are also discussed in this book. This book may also be used by non-salespeople.

Restless yuppie searches for fulfilling job

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

MY PROBLEM is that I don't know what job would give me happiness and fulfillment. More than a year after my college graduation, I'm already on my third job. How can I determine what I would like to do? I don't know of any particular interests, just that I like meeting people and gaining a variety of experiences. I'm hardworking, organized and productive because achievement gives me a sense of fulfillment. I value balance and taking a stand in life. However, I consider my impulsiveness and frankness my lesser traits. Please help me. Thanks in advance.

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3. Can you leave the office for long periods of time confident that your business and personal affairs will be conducted responsibly and expeditiously in your absence?
4. Do you get help in organizing your time? Do you get subtle reminders of your appointments and schedules without being nagged?
5. Do your work mates initiate, handle and follow through on projects without your having to be reminded?
6. Are they courteous, helpful, respectful and solicitous of each other and of your other business associates, visitors and customers?
7. Are they imaginative and creative? Do they present original ideas? Do they suggest ways of improving work, yours and theirs?
8. Are they resourceful? Do they show initiative in getting past a prob-

lem without rousing everybody?

9. Do they move paper efficiently? Are they able to get needed data and information to complete their work?

10. Are they calm in crisis? Gracious when tension mounts? When the pressure is on and tempers fly, do they remain composed and continue to function "normally"?

11. Do they have the necessary knowledge and skills to do their respective jobs and help out others?

12. Do you have their absolute loyalty and confidence? Can you trust them with confidential information, both personal and business?

13. Do they read widely and knowledgeably, bring to your team's attention items pertinent to your business affairs?

14. Are they valuable sources of corporate information, obtaining facts that are difficult, awkward or impossible for you to obtain on your own?

15. Do they have their own personal improvement program? Do they attend courses or lectures relevant to their jobs and to the organization? Do they try to learn more about your company, your products and services, your customers, your industry?

16. Are they articulate? Are they able to express themselves well in written or oral communication situations?

17. Do they practice proper telephone techniques and etiquette? How is their business etiquette?

18. Do they know and understand fully company policies and procedures?

19. Do they work everyday until the job is done, regardless of the hour? Are they able to finish their job within working hours? Are they willing to work nights or weekends when necessary?

20. Do you have leaders among your work mates? Can each one del-

egate, supervise and take responsibility for work not completed in time? Are they able to train each other on each other's areas of responsibility?

21. Are they able to keep track of vital dates among the team—dates for celebration of important events for your company, for your customers, for each other and for your respective families like birthdays, anniversaries, religious holidays, vacations and such?

22. Can they handle routine matters and projects on a day-to-day basis without your intervention and close supervision?

23. Can they do basic research like gathering information for a report or even writing a rough first draft?

If you are unable to answer "yes" to any of these questions, these are your time leaks and might be the occasions when you and your work mates are not optimizing or even wasting your time. Then, you need to do something about these to improve the situation.

Provide everybody, even your clerk, with some leadership training. Time management is a leadership activity. It is the ability to master one's self and lead others. You don't need to be appointed supervisor or manager to be able to do that.

A big thank you to all those who attended our three-day People at Work Live! Seminar Series. The thousands of people who came to our seminar series, particularly those who paid for their tickets out of their own pockets, prove that working people are seeking and wanting to learn about their jobs and how to be more effective in their jobs. They came with a personal agenda for self-development. Congratulations to our participants! PDI and People at Work shall endeavor to have more of these kinds of activities. Our indefatigable editor, Ms Reggie Reyes, is even now planning to bring the People at Work Live! Seminar Series to business and industry centers in the country. *Abangan ninyo kami sa mga probinsiya, ha?* (Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino



How do you remain objective at work?

DEAR WW: My boss asked me to help choose our next computer system. I've always been a Mac guy and immediately launched into a speech about why Apples are best. He said I was biased and now doesn't want me involved.

Just One Look Was All It Took

Your letter reminded me of a wonderful bit of bias that occurred at my own wedding. My wife-to-be and I knew things would be interesting when my mother broke her hip the night before. The next day, since my mother couldn't attend the wedding, I asked a nurse if she'd mind if we showed up in our finery and had a little ceremony in my mother's room. "Not at all!" the nurse replied. Then, sensing a PR opportunity, she called "Big Nurse" to see if they could invite the media. "Of course not!" said Big Nurse. "If people knew you could get married in the hospital, everyone would want to get married in the hospital."

Talk about marriage! This woman was married to her weird opinion of hospitals! Reminds me of you and your opinion of Apple. Obviously you think Apple is the way to go, but if you want to impress your boss, you and your opinion better get a temporary divorce!

I turned to "Management Would Be Easy... If It Weren't for the People" by Patricia



By Bob Rosner

Addesso (Amacom, 1996) for some tips on how to be objective when evaluating information. This is a great book for managers and manager wannabes, and I've adapted the following questions from it.

1. Do you pay closer attention to information received first? Most of us tend to do that. Make sure you give equal consideration to the things you hear about second, third and fourth.
2. Do you put more weight on negative information than positive? It's odd, but true: negative information resonates. (Just look at how many politicians run dirty campaigns.) Make sure you don't disqualify positive information just because it's positive.
3. Do you pay more attention to information that comes from certain individuals? Like Claude Rains in "Casablanca," we all tend to round up our "usual suspects" when looking for input. But that can make us dangerously shortsighted. Ask, too, for input from people who disagree with you.
4. Do you focus only on "relevant" information? Southwest Airlines is famous for turning around its planes in 20 minutes. Did they

learn how to do that from other airlines? Nope. They learned it from pit crews at the Indy 500. Good decisions require you to look at every information source available, even if at first it seems irrelevant.

Now, I'm not saying you're wrong to want to go with Apple. (Protect me from the Mac believers out there!) I'm just saying you need to show your boss you're open to all the possibilities if you want to stay involved in the process. Otherwise, he'll think your ability to make an objective decision is rotten to the core.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which is the most difficult for you to remain objective about?

- My work, 43.1 percent
- My boss, 39.4 percent
- My coworkers, 18.3 percent

Our winning strategy for remaining objective at work comes from Brady C. In

Gainesville, FL. "Although it's only natural to read and talk with people that share your ideas and convictions, it also tends to insulate you from the other side of issues. I always seek out people who disagree with me. In business, one of the best sources of information is competing salespeople. I'd suggest your Mac guy go spend some time with an IBM salesman."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Reflections for the working soul

"When we act in opposition to our heart, defying our passion, we are left with feelings of emptiness, longing and unfulfillment. When we rule out passion, we introduce ourselves to a life of regret, a life of what-ifs. What if I had gone after my dreams? Could I have realized them?"

"Passionaters live with few regrets. They learn the lesson that is so hard for many: to achieve and preserve happiness by following your passion, you cannot give up more than you will gain. You must keep your eye on the prize, so to speak."

"The passionater... treats passion thoughtfully, taking great care to protect it and nurture it, realizing that some sacrifice may be necessary to ensure its continued survival."

- From the book "The Passion Plan: A Step-by-Step Guide to Discovering, Developing and Living Your Passion" by Richard Chang

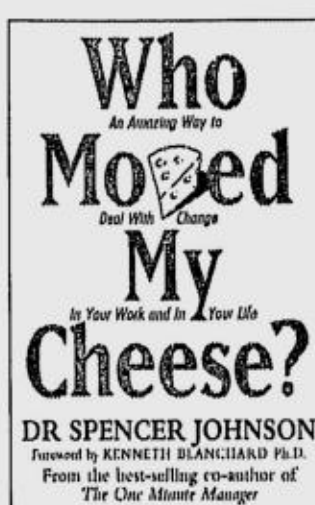
EDITOR'S PICKS

PEOPLE at work who missed attending the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Assertiveness in Communication, Negotiating Skills and Achieving Your Personal Vision or who would like additional references on these topics can take hold of the following books available at National Book Store.



Develop Your Assertiveness
By Sue Bishop
2000, Kogan Page Limited

Assertiveness seems not to have a niche in Pinoy interpersonal relations—or so it may seem. But in these days of the global economy, assertiveness is a handy communication style that can enable a person to make a positive impact, be more confident and achieve his goals. According to the author, assertiveness is "being able to express yourself with confidence without having to resort to passive, aggressive or manipulative behavior. It involves self-awareness, getting to know, like and be in charge of the real you." As a basic guide in developing an assertive communication style, this book merits a good look from people who want to stop being a wimp at work and grab those opportunities for growth and success.



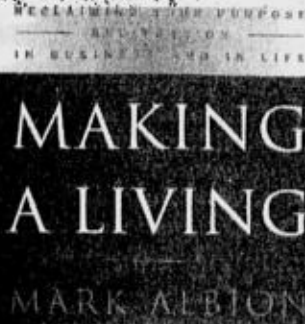
Who Moved My Cheese?
By Dr. Spencer Johnson
2000, GP Putnam's Sons

THE BOOK is a must read for people who clutch at stability even when change becomes inevitable. Throwing away the gobbledygook of "change management" theories, this book contains a simple parable that teaches people to embrace change so that they can more easily achieve their goals (or in this case, cheeses) in life. Reading the book, and grasping its truths, is as easy as taking a picture and saying "cheese."

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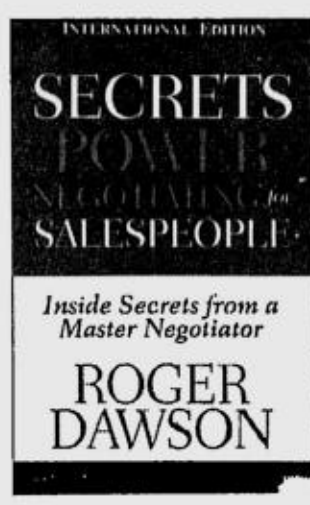
MAKING A LIFE
By Mark Albion
2000, Warner Books, Inc.



do? Where can you go? The answers provided in the book can help you vanquish your personal angst.

Making A Life
By Mark Albion
2000, Warner Books, Inc.

Making a living is what most people do. Making a life is sometimes what some people wrapped up in work forget to do. For those who want to reclaim their purpose and passion in business and in life, this book is worth reading. It answers four basic questions: Who are you? What do you want? What can you do? Where can you go? The answers provided in the book can help you vanquish your personal angst.



Secrets of Power Negotiating for Salespeople
By Roger Dawson
2001, Pearson Education Asia Pte. Ltd.

The secrets of power negotiating are no longer secret with the release of this book. Everything you want to know about negotiating but were afraid to ask is in this book from beginning, middle and ending negotiations. Most importantly, techniques of power sales closing are also discussed in this book. This book may also be used by non-salespeople.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

INTERNET'S DARK SIDE

Employees on the job online face distractions, attractions

BY JEFF WESTOVER

(This is Part III of the five-part article on "What the Internet means to anyone who wants to stay employed.")

THE USE of the Internet in the workplace has a dark side, too. The Internet is a global stage filled with an endless array of entertainment. Employees with Internet access on the job are finding it difficult to stay focused on work when there is so much online to compete for their attention.

According to a 1999 survey by SurfWatch Software, an Internet filtering firm, almost a third of employee use of the Internet at work is recreational. Not only do companies pay \$3.5 billion for Internet access on the job but the lost productivity adds up to over \$1.1 billion annually, according to SurfWatch.

E-mail is likewise a problem that is soaking up employee time. According to a survey by myjobsearch.com, three out of four workers admit to sending personal e-mail over company computers and 52 percent of those sent items they absolutely did not want the boss to see. Oops.

Computers are great fun but they are anything but private. And cyber-surveillance has caught on in the workplace. According to WebSense.com, 82 percent of companies have a written Internet use policy. Over half of all companies now monitor Internet use and e-mail. And they are not taking abuse from the cyber-slackers they have on the job.

Internet misuse

Nearly two-thirds of companies nationwide report disciplining workers for misusing the Internet while working. And a third of those companies surveyed—ranging in size from 6 to over 150,000 employees—have terminated workers that use the Internet to loaf.

In a high profile story in the media in the fall of 1999, the New York Times fired more than 20 employees for sending "inappropriate and offensive" e-mail messages. While privacy advocate groups decry employer intrusion in monitoring employee e-mail, there is little that can be done about it. First Amendment rights are inapplicable to private institutions and on privately owned communications systems. Court rulings have recently stated that e-mail messages and even transcripts from online chats are admissible in court as evidence in a criminal trial.

Say what you will about the wonders of the Internet—it has not kept the boss from watching closely. In fact, companies have a much better view into the habits, thoughts and attitudes of their workers than ever before.

Impact on future

As we have turned the corner on a new millennium we have been bombarded with "best of" lists and predictions for what lies ahead. Predictions are usually more informative in retrospect. Take MegaTrends 2000, for example. The book never once mentions the Internet.

But the future of work and employment lies not on what the Internet will become. The future of work is based upon what the Internet is now. Here is how the Internet of today will impact employment in the (very near) future.

Enter anything.com in a browser and it looks the same all over the world. A fan of cheese in cheeseless areas of India can log on and not only find everything in the world there is to know about cheese but countless places that will sell and ship it to anywhere in the world.

But business online is not reserved solely for shoppers. The newest buzzword is "B2B"—or business-to-business commerce. Inter-

national Data Corporation says that 77 percent of worldwide commerce is transacted between businesses. The online portion of those transactions will jump from \$145 billion in 1999 to \$953 billion in 2001, according to the Gartner Group.

Global job

For employees everywhere this is significant. Imagine the job you do now and project it to include every corner of the world. Does it change anything?

Don't feel alone. Somewhere in Europe a worker is staring at his or her computer contemplating the same things. In fact, a great many people outside the United States are doing it. European growth in Internet access and e-commerce will outperform the continuing boom in the United States all the way through 2003, according to Forrester Research. Even China has awakened their sleeping Internet giant. Users in China jumped from 1.7 million in 1998 to nearly 9 million in just the last year.

What this means for workers worldwide is a need to be trained in multi-cultural business. The delicate exchange of communication between differing cultures is challenge enough. Doing it online is going to require a global learning process



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

that is bound to see a few bumps.

Project-based employment

The Internet has also given rise to project-based employment like independent contractors. Independent contractors are workers that perform specific functions in a given amount of time for a set price. Once thought of almost exclusively in high tech circles, a person hanging a shingle on the Internet is known today as an eLancer.

Companies of today turn to independent contracting to complete projects because they have no choice in a tight labor market where specific skills are in high demand.

Independent contracting is a lifestyle of choice. According to the US Department of Labor, 84 percent of workers that freelance would never go back to traditional employment.

Some sectors of the economy are seeing project-based employment making inroads. In the human resources industry, for example, many

companies are "outsourcing" their entire human resource functions. This means they hire an outside company to perform payroll and benefits maintenance. The trend is so hot the Gartner Group projects that it will grow to \$37.7 billion by 2003, up from just \$13.9 billion in 1999. Nearly 70 percent of U.S. companies have reduced budgets and HR staffs and now utilize some form of outsourcing.

But what happens when a company expands or needs one-time projects done that would normally fall to a Human Resources Department? They hire an independent contractor to do the job instead.

Outsourcing is a growing trend in several traditional corporate functions. Accounting, legal, training, and information technology are all outsourced. As companies cut further to boost earnings, outsourcing will grow to help meet the temporary needs of companies that cut too far.

(Reprinted with permission from www.careermag.com.)

Why non-'MBA' holders never get the job

BY RESTY S. ODON

NON-MBA holders never get the job. By MBA, I mean, "May backer aka." (I have a backer.) For example, of the many frustrating job-hunting experiences I've had, the worst incidents involved two cruel ordeals where I had to dance the dance of deception with the Personnel Department. A lot of people just don't seem to know the word fairness.

The first happened at a bank. With high hopes, I had applied for a job in that bank because I had a friend working there, who had referred the position to me. The job involved coordinating the renewal of leases for the various branches of the bank.

I went through all the hassles of filing a leave of absence in my current job, dressing up, practicing how to put on a tie, taking impossibly long exams and getting pre-interview jitters.

Unforgettable

When I showed up for the interview, the interviewer started to ask me questions that were so extremely annoying they were unforgettable.

"Uhm, we have other positions in another department. I think you'd be better suited there," he said, after barely welcoming me. "Would you want it there just in case? Sosyal ka naman, di ba? The position I'm telling you about needs people like you."

I wanted to sock his face but this was a bank full of security guards who would not hesitate to spray bullets on you. I would have appreciated it if he had said to my face, "I don't like you." Or "Sorry, I already have my own guy for the position." My friend later discovered that the interviewer already had someone for the position.

Irrelevant

The second case is one for the books. I applied as a science research specialist in this prestigious government agency. The qualifying exams were kind of hard

but I managed to pass them, thank God for stock knowledge. On my next appointment, I found Ms Interviewer from the Personnel Department hurling at me a barrage of questions not exactly concerned with my application.

"What's your religion?" she asked me, beaming with a Close-up smile. "Tell me about your parents." She then asked me about the kind of music I was currently into. I said my taste in music often varies. "Right now, I'm into Latin jazz," I said. She also asked me about the things I read. I said I usually read classics

but I prefer the humorous ones and I also read contemporary works.

Ms Interviewer admitted the irrelevance of her questions. She explained that they were being asked because the organization wanted to know more about me as a person. I wanted to shout back, "I am applying as a science research specialist, you...you..."

Frustrated

I told her about my being frustrated by monotony. I said I appreciated it if I had a greater control over my work and I received regular feedback from my superiors. She nodded and then inquired about my current job of technical writing.

Through the course of our exchange, we discovered that I love creative writing more. A bit more

WHYNON-MBA/B14



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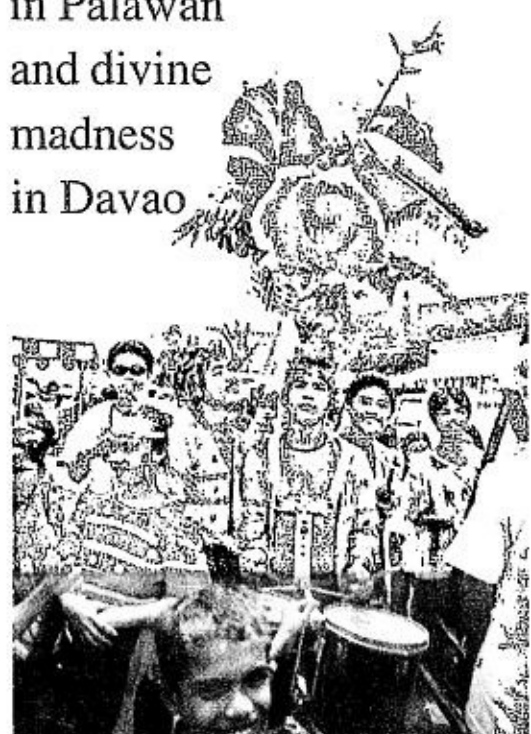
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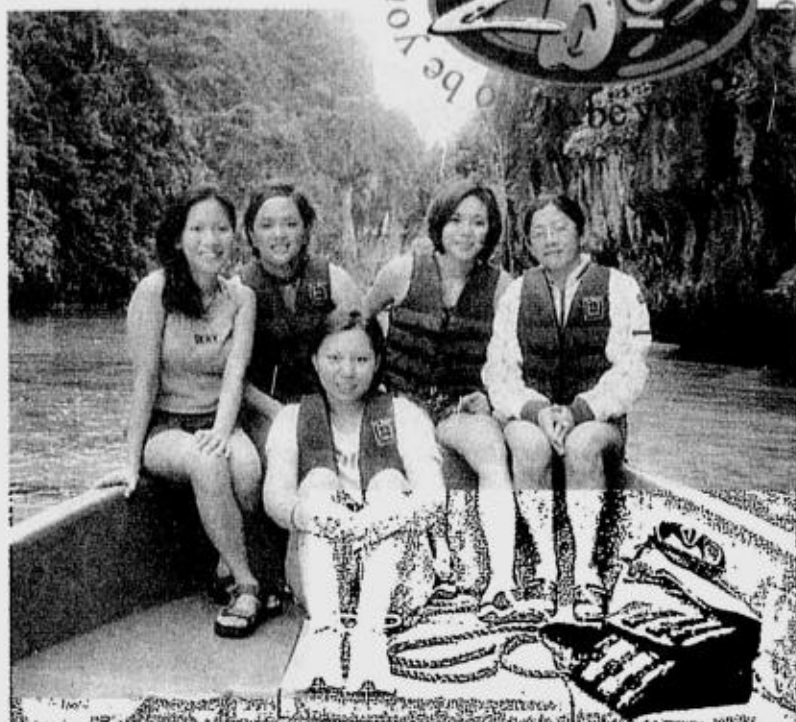
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MY El Nido group with Nita's group Tita Cris, Deedee and Tess and hosts Shiela, Ian and dive master Eric

Palawan on my mind

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CHIQUIT TORRENTE
2bU! Correspondent

Day 1

7 a.m. 2bU! chief of correspondents Pam Pastor called up and asked if I wanted to go to Palawan with Walter Ang and Carlos Garchitorena, together with PR man and veteran journalist Pete Dacuycuy. I was supposed to meet them in the morning at the domestic airport. I had no idea what my assignment was and where exactly we were going. So I stepped out of my comfort zone and joined the adventure. Very unlike me.

9:30 a.m. Said a silent but fervent prayer for a safe trip.

11:45 a.m. Palawan from the plane was breathtaking. It was wonderful seeing God's palette of colors. Thankfully, we safely landed in Puerto Princesa.

First stop was the artists' haven, Kamarikutan. Nanay Dayang, as the proprietor is known, is mother to a family of artists. The "house" is a veritable museum of paintings, furniture and architecture. Its use of bamboo and coco lumber all throughout was inspired by Palawan's ecology. Very artsy, very environmental, very Filipino.

1 p.m. Had lunch at the infamous Dos Palmas. We were halfway through the boat ride when it started to rain. *Sayang*. I had wanted to feel the sun on my face, the spray on my skin and the salt on my lips. But the sight that greeted us was worth going through the fog. Dos Palmas was beautiful despite the downpour. It's time people got over its negative publicity—it really was paradise.

After lunch, we were off to the hotels and inns of Puerto Princesa.

9 p.m. A short history lesson with Puerto Princesa Mayor Socrater was held after dinner at the city hall. Trivia: Puerto Princesa was founded by St. Ezequiel Moreno. Ha! I learned something new on this trip.

Finally it was chill out time at Asturias Hotel's bar/billiards/disco. It had been a long day. Hope the sun would come out tomorrow. I could not leave Palawan without a tan!

Day 2

7:30 a.m. It was raining! God, make the sun come out, please.

Lovely breakfast at Asiaworld Hotel. It's an old hotel, and because of the slump in tourism, there were no other visitors. It was a pity because the service was great and the food delicious!

9 a.m. Off to Palawan's famed Butterfly Garden. Walter fell in love with the butterflies and finished half his film on them! Next stop: Palawan Wildlife Refuge and Rescue Center where the DENR breeds crocodiles. Trina and Walter dared to hold a baby croc but Carlos and I just watched them. Trina said she'd cook us a croc meal someday!

Ka Lui, according to Trina, is the most famous exotic restaurant in Puerto Princesa. We dropped by but there wasn't any food ready yet and we had to rush back to Asiaworld for lunch with Rep. Mitra.

1 p.m. The sun was out, but not that bright, and we were off by Seair to El Nido.

At El Nido, we took a boat to Miniloc Island, where I could finally dive, bum and contemplate what makes



Palawan so special. I loved it here! It was raining again, but it was all right because the place was so tranquil and idyllic. I felt like Leonardo DiCaprio in "The Beach," except that this city girl cannot live without indoor plumbing. Miniloc has the best amenities—you feel like you're away from civilization, yet you'll experience the comforts of home.

Day 3

8 a.m. The sun was out! Yehey, I could have a tan! But of course, breakfast first with my El Nido group: our sponsors Deedee, Tess and Tita Cris of Nitas, and our gracious hostess, El Nido's Sheila. Aside from the buffet fare, we had grilled *lapu-lapu* and *mayamaya*. Deedee and Sheila's catch du jour. Then we took a speedboat to Miniloc's lagoons, where we went kayaking in pairs. My captain was Sheila, whom I discovered is a fellow UP alumnus. Go UP!

I never imagined I could row myself around a lagoon. But you wouldn't notice how long and how far you had been kayaking because the lagoon was exquisite. The water changed color every so often, as the depth changed dramatically. It was so clear that you could see the corals, rock formations and schools of fish. I wouldn't mind living on this paradise island, if it only had cable TV, a mall and Seattle's Best Coffee. Arggh! It was starting to rain!

11:30 a.m. Wet and exhilarated from my kayak ride, I found out we were going to the only other El Nido resort, Lagen Island, for lunch. While speed boating, I finally felt the spray on my skin...although the rain hit us like pins and needles! But it was great!

PALAWAN/p.C3



THE SENTRIES at Ka Luis

Seattle's Best Coffee. Arggh! It was starting to rain!

11:30 a.m. Wet and exhilarated from my kayak ride, I found out we were going to the only other El Nido resort, Lagen Island, for lunch. While speed boating, I finally felt the spray on my skin...although the rain hit us like pins and needles! But it was great!

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Palawan on my mind

(From page C2)

The fog gave us the feeling that we were journeying to the ends of the earth. I loved it!

Lunch was nice at Lagen. We swam in the pool even though it was raining. When we got out of the water, the sun came out! Hallelujah!

4 p.m. After a bit of El Nido island-hopping we went back to Miniloc. I had my initial diving lesson with instructor Eric. I was a bit nervous but the view under was breathtaking. Nothing compares to first-hand

experience! Snorkeling was fun, too, despite another rain attack.

8:30 p.m. Dinner was fantastic—as usual. Afterward, we exercised our lungs with Miniloc's pathetic collection of videotape tapes. This was one of the fun days I've had in ages!

Day 4

8 a.m. It was raining cats and dogs! The water was murky so there was nothing to do. There was even a possibility we would be stranded for one more day on one of the most beautiful beaches in the Philippines.

11 a.m. Shiela finally confirmed our flight to Busuanga, and after one last food fest we took a *bangka* ride to the airport. What a bumpy, wavy ride! Fun!

4 p.m. Bounding Seair to Busuanga, I promised myself to see El Nido in bright weather. When we flew over Busuanga, the pilot announced we were flying home to Manila. It was zero visibility due to the storm, and he couldn't find the airport! Yehey, I was going home! I'd miss the ferry ride home with Walter, Carlos and Trina but I wouldn't miss the seasickness they'd get! Although I didn't have a tan, I had a glorious time!



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COLORFUL cottages with fruit names

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY WALTER ANG

THE SUN had already set when 2bU! reached Busuanga Island at the northern tip of Palawan via a 19-seater Seair plane. Then we rode a jeepney for one hour to be able to go to Coron town. It took a 5-minute boat ride to reach DiveLink Resort.

Nestled on the hillside of Uson Island, the bright yellow color of the resort's jetty was already visible from afar. Welcomed by the indefatigable resident manager Maween Reyes, we shared dinner and stories that night. Buffet was served in a charming miniaturized boat as 2bU! and other members of the media were told of the exciting activities that were lined up for us.

In the light of the morning sun, we were able to view our cottages in their full Caribbean colors of red, blue and yellow. Cristina Matta (whose husband Noel co-owns the resort along with Bobong Velez and Henri Blaszkiewicz) said the colors were chosen to make the resort "a happy place."

The cottages, with endearing fruit names (I stayed at Buko), have no aircon units and television sets. "And they can never, ever have one," says this gracious lady. "The lack of amenities is meant to encourage guests to come out and bask in nature's beauty."

Treasure hunting

Dapper Noel Matta, who also heads the security committee of the Palawan Provincial Tourism Council, gave us the lowdown on why Coron is such a hotspot for divers. In 1944, as the World War II was coming to an end, freight ships of General Yamashita docked at Coron.

The ships supposedly carried treasures that the Japanese army looted from Indochina (Cambodia, Myanmar, Burma). Some were even disguised as Red Cross ships but Gen. William "Bull" Halsey sent his planes to bomb them anyway since Japan never signed the Treaty of Paris.

There are now 37 total wrecks with 14 diveable sites—certainly a haven for divers and treasure hunters. We were told of fake "treasure hunters" who buy cheap vases, allow coral to grow on them for about three months and claim that these "artifacts" were found from the wreckage. Caveat emptor!

And buyers, beware. Since the tourism in Coron is pretty much still in its infancy, ask the resort's staff to arrange tours or diving trips you wish to take. They know which establishments and operators are reliable. You wouldn't want your day ruined by hooking up with inexperienced or unsavory characters.

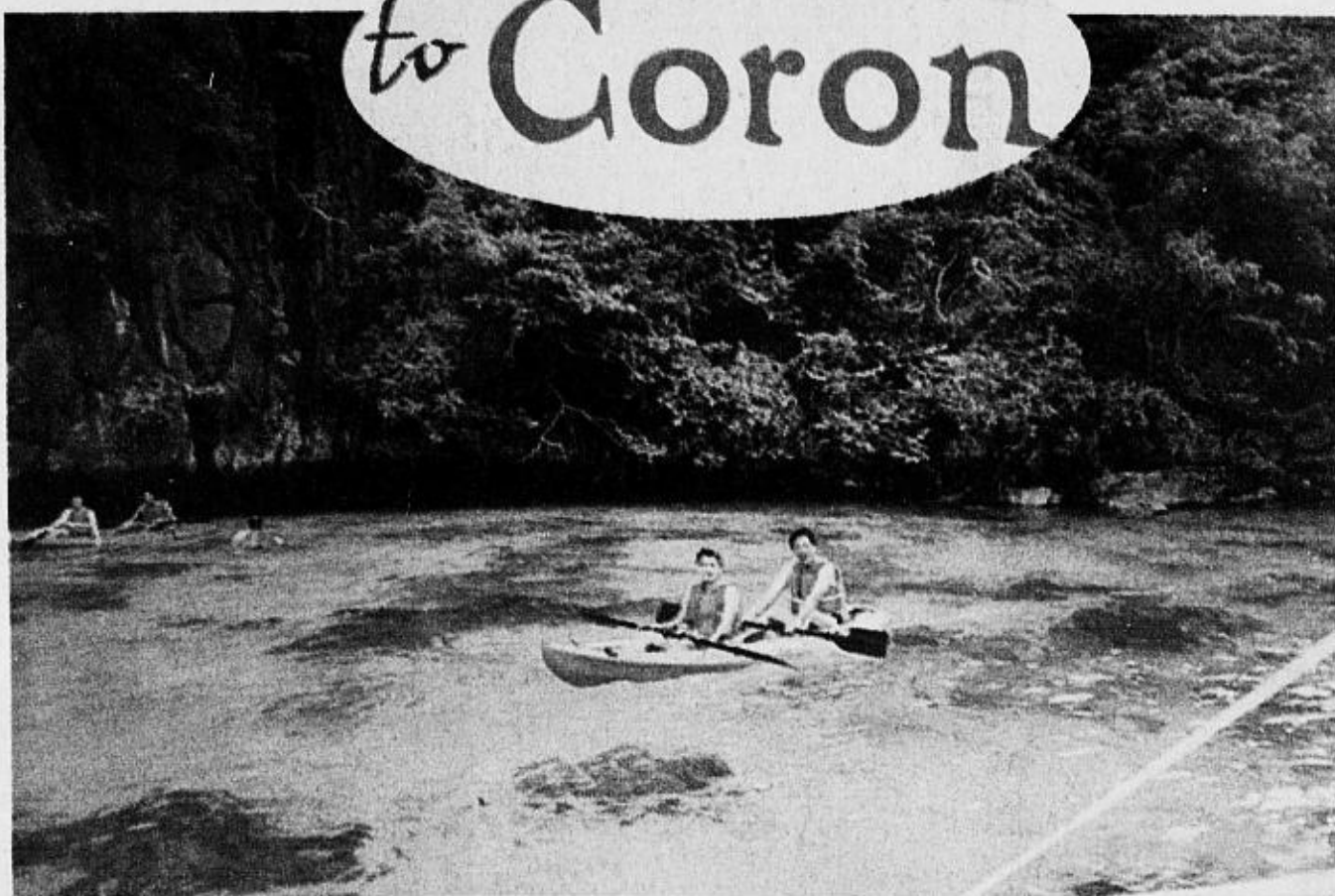
Picturesque

Even if Coron is a diver's hotspot, it accommodates nondivers as well. Our multitalented guide Robert Agosto prepared a whole day of nondiving activities. We started off with swimming in the clear and rich blue waters of Twin Lagoons. There were magnificent limestone cliffs all around us; giant monolithic sentinels guarding us as we swam.

Next was kayaking by a lush, picturesque mangrove. For a city slicker like me whose main form of exercise is channel surfing, the kayaking was quite a workout for my biceps and triceps!

Nothing can compare, however, to Kayangan Lake, a Hall of Famer for being one of the cleanest lakes in the country. This lake is accessible by a short climb up a small hill, then down again. When I saw the full view of the lake on my way down, I had to stop in my tracks. It was so beautiful.

One could not help but appreciate this piece of untouched nature. All day long, you could



KAYAKING in a picturesque mangrove

hear people say "Ganda, ganda!"—and you could only nod in agreement. It was wonderful to just bob in the water with our orange life vests (you needn't tire yourself out so you can concentrate on looking at the sights).

We kept joking that this would be a perfect spot to shoot a porno movie. Both Maween and Robert said that one movie outfit already did. It was supposedly called "Bakit May Pakpak ang Ibon (Why Birds have Wings)," but the sexual innuendo was completely lost in the translation).

Ends of the earth

Last stop for the day was Maquinit Hot Springs where we settled down in the fantastic hot salt-water. There we soothed our muscles. As the sun was setting, I thought to myself, "So this is what an eco tour is!" You hear about it all the time, but when you actually get to see nature at its best, you gain a deeper appreciation for the word. More people should see Coron; let's just hope they keep it clean!

Foreign tourists, mostly Italians and French, have come to view Coron's beauty, but most of its guests are locals. The owners are appreciative of the WG&A vessels now plying the Coron route. "For around P6,000, you leave Manila Friday night after school or work and rest on the ship. Spend two days here complete with meals and tours. You leave Coron Sunday night and arrive in Manila early Monday morning. It's great for the weekend market." For those who are not fond of water trips, Seair flies to Busuanga from Manila and Puerto Princesa.

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BRIT BOYS. Luke Mucklin and Paul Hammond at the Big Star event
PHOTOS BY TIM YAP



WHITE HOT. Bianca Valerio and Mickey Montes



POWERBOOK'S Adrian Ramos and Roslyn Reyes



BIG STARS. Carmina Sanchez and Robbie Carmona

Anton Ramos' own brand of chill

CHILL is this year's buzzword. "I want it chilled." "Why don't you take a chill pill?" "Cafe del Mar chill series" and "Chill out" are just some of its more common usage. But nowhere is it best exemplified than in Anton Ramos' music. "I've been playing this kind of music for a while. It is only now that I've been heard," he says with a warm smile.

Anton, with his sheer love for music and playing for friends, also owns Music One. He started his



Tim Yap

radio show, "The Chill Out Project," at the end of 1997. At the time, it didn't get enthusiastic response. For four years, he would still play the same genre of music, until he decided to release a CD of the same title. It did very well. So well that when the owners of Wasabi heard it, they knew they wanted Anton's music in their halls. The rest is the past few month's history of Wasabi gaining the top spot in people's lists, as evidenced by the Makati Avenue wide full parking slots every weekend.

Anton has also released a "Boracay Chill" CD for friends, and plans to release "Chill Out Project 2" maybe by this month or the next. How does he choose the music for his CDs? "The only thing I consider is what I feel and the emotion that it will



CHILLING ME SOFTLY. Anton Ramos and Lyxen Dlomampo

evolve." "Just like a DJ?" I ask.

Anti-clubbing

"I don't want to be called a DJ. I don't play for the crowd. What I play is based on what I feel," Anton says. "If I'm not in the mood, I can't—I don't book myself; I have DJs in my group to do the gigs. 'I'm so anti-clubbing. It's so fake, so plastic,'" Anton says. "The art of conversation has been lost the last few years. Through this kind of music, through this kind of place, we hope to bring it back."

I ask him about his "fakeness" stance on the scene. "It's hard to explain. You know when you go to a place and you think you know everybody, but in truth, you don't really know them. You just know them by their names."

"Here," referring to his current home, Wasabi, "I can actually sit down, talk and get to know them better." Anton smiles, takes a sip from his glass of cold water, and says, "My music is about getting to that level. You don't need to hide behind the veneer—it's the purest thing."

"It's all about being heard, sharing your music." Then he waxes philosophical: "This genre has angst, melancholy, a little pain. I get along with people who have gone through a lot in life."

Thinking person's music

Anton recalls the time when DJ Bruno of "Cafe del Mar" dropped by on his set in Boracay. "He stayed. Later on he told me he liked the set."

Like fashion or art, there comes a time when music becomes too commercial, then loses its intrinsic value in the process. Does he see this happening to him? "It is nice to be heard, to be appreciated. But by the nature of what the music is, it cannot be commercial. There has to be an element of privacy into it."

For Anton, who spent much of his growing years just bringing CDs to friend's parties where they mused about life's ups and downs, his music is the "thinking person's music."

For him, Wednesdays is the new chill. It gets too packed on Saturdays, as we all know. I caught up with him at the launch of his Big Star Jeans line at the 37th floor of the Enterprise Center a few weeks back, where people were treated to his kind of music after a brief fashion show to showcase the denim collection's latest line. Photos appear on this page.

Couches and beanbags filled the place as guests engaged in random revelry, talking to each other, not having to scream. It was very relaxed. "I like to create an environment that everybody feels what I feel."

Donna Karan's New York

They say the New York minute lasts shorter than the usual ho-hum humdrum moment. "Seize the day!" we said, as we caught these dynamic glitz-biz personalities on the go, in style with their DKNY timepieces.

The celebrities on this page live the fast-paced lifestyle, so fast that they go through their day's itinerary faster than you can say, "Donna Karan New York."

And just like Karan, who gives her body, heart and soul, these pacesetters embody the energy that is New York—a city forever in motion where each second counts and rush hour lasts all day.

In stylish DKNY bracelets and cuffs, Pops Fernandez, Amy Perez, Ces Drilon, Christine Jacob and Randy Santiago all exhibit that New York style—up to the minute and on track with style and technology.

With that, let's all sit back, relax and chill.



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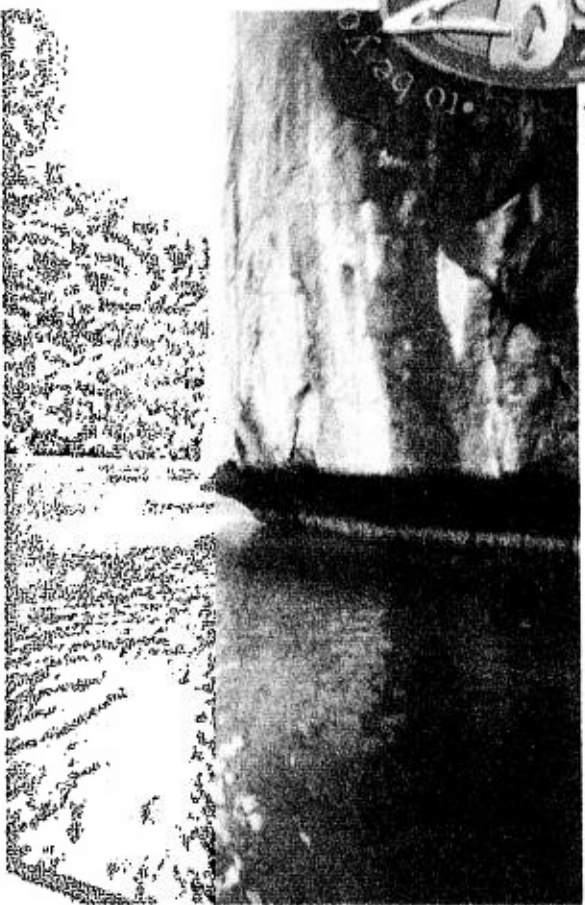
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I ROWED around the lagoon, and felt such a deep need for you as I sat watching the fish through the clear aquamarine sea. Did I really see your reflection in the water looking back at me? I hear you calling to me, love, and I vow to myself that this time next week, I will be in your arms again. Promise me we'll go back to Palawan together?



INTRUMPETS' "Little Mermaid," Princess Sapphire bids Prince Christian goodbye, singing (and I paraphrase) that when she dips her hand into the sea and cups the water, which runs through her hand, it is as though she is holding his hand in hers. I so miss you. But there is only a sea between us.



"CALL to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." I wish I could claim those words for my own, love, but they come from Him, who is Wisdom, and said to the prophet Jeremiah. Being away from you so long has forced me to reevaluate what we have. I'd give anything to have you here with me.

Postcards from the edge -of the Philippines

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY CHIQUIT
TORRENTE

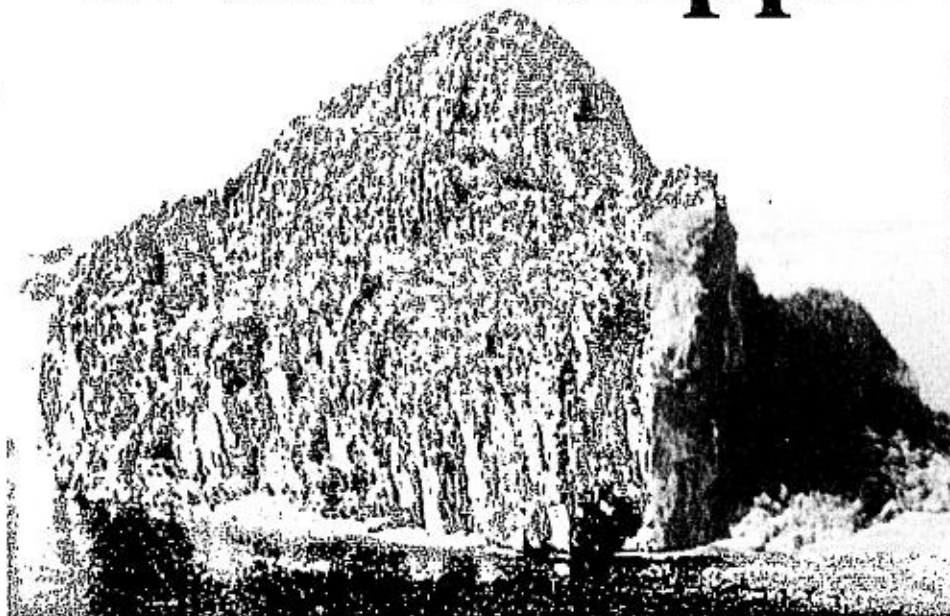


PHOTO COURTESY OF EL NIDO RESORTS

THE ROCK formations remind me of "Wuthering Heights," when Cathy says, "My love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal rocks beneath: a source of little visible delight, but necessary. Nelly, I am Heathcliff! He's always, always on my mind: not as a pleasure, any more than I am always a pleasure to myself, but as my own being." But the rocks here, love, hold me in absolute fascination. As you do.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EL NIDO RESORTS



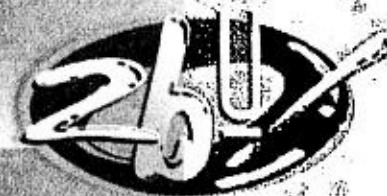
SURPRISED to be holding a postcard in your hand, love? The view is breathtaking and I feel very "Griffin and Sabine" right now, so far away from you and living in paradise island, with only my pen to summon you to me.

I AM one with nature. I am solitary, alone, an island. Ha-ha. It's beautiful here, so peaceful and restful... and yet I am so lonely without you.

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The soul of Palawan cuisine

BY TRINA MARTELINO

THE ESSENCE of food is rooted in the culture of people and in the richness of their land. As an advocate of authenticity, I believe that the best way to unearth our country's traditional recipes is by traveling our various islands.

What better place to start than Palawan where an epicure's imagination will surely run wild? Palawan, aptly named the land of beautiful and safe harbor in the 19th century, is home to the freshest seafood.

According to Palawan's local chefs, there's more to the city's cuisine than a grand buffet of grilled seafood and fowl. Chef Orly Heredero and Butch Acero, F&B manager of the Asturias Hotel, said Palawan food is a fusion of regional cuisines.

Chef Bill Delara of the Legenda Hotel talked about how abundant the Palawan coast is. When asked how to cook the sea's treasures, he said, "inihaw," marinated in soy sauce and calamansi.

That's exactly what greeted me on every dinner table. Such simple elegance is reminiscent of Tuscan and Cantonese cooking, where less is considered more. When you work with ingredients that are kissed by the sun and are as fresh as spring's first blossom, there's little you need to do between the market place and the dining room.

Alice Waters, pioneer of the California cuisine movement, and chef/owner of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, CA., is often quoted, "Your food is only as good as the freshness of the ingredients you use."

Feast for the palate

With the ocean practically knocking on the kitchen door, it is no wonder that every meal in Palawan is a feast for the palate. I am reminded of a luncheon served in Dos Palmas, where Sinigang na Hipon was the topic of conversation. A bowl of good old-fashioned chicken soup can give an exotic twist for the soul. The *je ne sais quoi*

that made the potage so memorable was the freshness of the ingredients: real tamarind and shrimp broth. Perhaps the chef even went the mile and used a clay pot.

Still, the question persists: What's Palawan cuisine? Chef Francisco Supangan and Peter Miranda of the Marican Bay and Club Paradise, respectively, provided an answer. Palawenos look forward to dried fish (*danggit*, a popular choice) which is dipped in vinegar. In this case, chefs use the one made from coconut. In contrast to the dried fish, *lato* adds freshness to the meal. This bubbly seaweed is served within hours of harvest. Ms Waters will be proud.

Exotic

When I pressed the locals for a more exotic dish, stories surfaced on what some would call the true contri-

bution of Palawan to the culinary world. The mangroves scattered across the islands serve as a haven for the pre-Columbian diner. If you dare, treat yourself to *tamilo* worm, half a foot of protein that will slide down your throat and wriggle in your belly. Follow this delicacy immediately with a chug of *tuba*, the less fermented, alcoholic kind.

If you're up to the challenge, approach your local guide for this local version of mescal. Part of the experience is foraging through the mangroves, so prepare to be one with nature. Finally, here is something indigenous to the land. Very exotic, very Palawan, but not exactly what I'd call fine dining.

I probed deeper into local scene and many people recommended Ka Lui. The name alone beckons like Bali Hai. It is a charming restaurant in the

heart of Puerto Princesa, named after the gourmet who created it. Pre-fix menus of prawns, lobster and fish, just to name a few, served in a delightfully ethnic fashion, showcase what is said to be Palawan's finest cuisine.

If anyone held the key to my inquiry, he would be Ka Lui, the man revered as Palawan's food guru. From his award-winning "Ginataang Buwaya" to the ever-changing menus in his restaurant, Ka Lui's extensive knowledge on native ingredients and cooking methods, combined with his culinary genius give him celebrity status in the food world. Some call him a local icon. By imparting the secrets of his kitchen, Ka Lui can open the doors of Palawan cuisine to the world.

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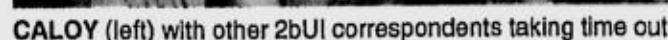
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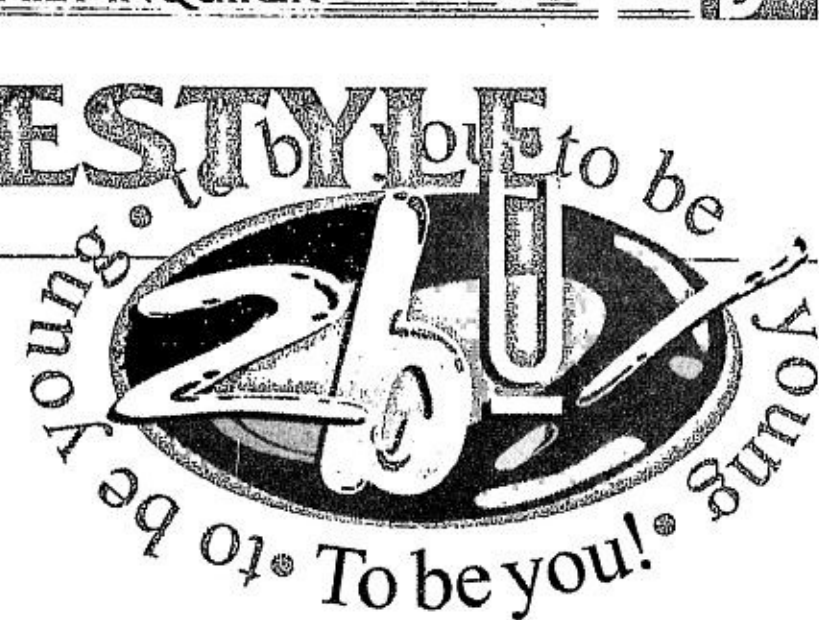
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For feedback or suggestion



Kadayawan's kaleidoscope of festivities

"If only Smart wouldn't cut off its free text rate..." A parade participant muses about the future.

BY JASON DOPLITO
26U Correspondent

DAVAO is a place worth visiting. It boasts of tourist spots like Mt. Apo, the highest peak in the country and habitat of the Philippine eagle. However, there is one important detail about this place that proves to be a bit of a problem for travelers. Davao is farther than Palawan, which means that it is somewhere in Mindanao—and we all know what that word conjures in our minds. But worrying about your safety should be the least of your problems once you've found yourself in the heart of the metropolis. This is because in warm and sunny Davao, crossing the street is the only thing you should be concerned about. Moslems and Christians as well as the different tribe groups all coexist peacefully.

KADAYAWAN/p.22



TRANSPORTATION takes on a different meaning in Davao.



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zed Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest add-ons from September 4 to 10 for SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Download them today and get a chance to win prizes from Get zed! Get loaded! To register, type in JOIN GETZ <name>/<address> and send to 288. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

new ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
ONE LAST CRY	BRIAN MCKNIGHT	TONE 11ASCY
BACK AT ONE	BRIAN MCKNIGHT	TONE BACKAT1
LOVE OF MY LIFE	BRIAN MCKNIGHT	TONE LOVEOFMY
THAT'S WHY	GARY VALENCIANO	TONE THATSWHY
WHAT MORE CAN I SAY	GARY VALENCIANO	TONE WHATMORE
FOOL TILL THE END	GARY VALENCIANO	TONE FOOLTILL
LAUGHTER ALL THE TIME	GARY VALENCIANO	TONE LAUGHTER2
EACH PASSING NIGHT	GARY VALENCIANO	TONE EACHPASSING
MEN BEHAVING BADLY	DEPECHE MODE	TONE MENBAD
PERSONAL JESUS	DEPECHE MODE	TONE PERSONAL

top ten ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1 UPTOWN GIRL	BILLY JOEL / WEST LIFE	TONE UPTOWN
2 HEY JUDE	JOHN LENNON	TONE HEYJUDE
3 SWEET CHILD OF MINE	GUNS 'N' ROSES	TONE SWEETCHI
4 PAGDATING NG PANAHON	AIZA SEGUERRA	TONE PAGDATING
5 AGAINST ALL ODDS	MARIAH CAREY & WESTLIFE	TONE ALLODDS
6 LADY MARMALADE	CHRISTINA AGUILERA	TONE MARMALADE
7 SUPERMAN THEME	LEON KLATSKIN	TONE SUPERMAN
8 LET IT BE	JOHN LENNON	TONE LETITBE
9 IT WASN'T ME	SHAGGY	TONE WASNTME
10 DREAMING OF YOU	SELENA	TONE DRIMOFU

zed new logos

top ten logos

1 LOGO BEAR14
2 LOGO HEARTS
3 I LOVE BEER
4 LOGO RUVIER
5 LOGO ARIOPUR
6 YOUNG, HORNY & SINGLE
7 LOGO HORNY
8 LOGO EVOLVE1
9 LOGO EYES8
10 LOGO THESING

new logos

LOGO BANANA1
LOGO CHESE1
LOGO CHIMPLUV
LOGO EAGLE1
LOGO GROW1
LOGO HUNRY
LOGO NUBH2
LOGO DINH1
LOGO ROUCKY
LOGO RUSH1

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3. You will receive confirmation of your order. You will start receiving your logo daily.

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www.zed.com

zed new picture messages

1 PIC BUGGY1	6 PIC VINTAGE3
2 PIC CLASSIC1	7 PIC VINTAGE4
3 PIC MUSCLECAR	8 CITROEN PS21
4 Bugatti	9 PIC VINTAGE5
5 PIC VINTAGE1	10 PIC VINTAGE6
11 Cadillac '57	12 PIC BUGGY2
13 PIC VINTAGE2	14 PIC BUGGY3

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Kadayawan's kaleidoscope of festivities

(From page D1)

Touring all the scenic spots in Davao isn't bad, but it's also important that one gets to learn about the local culture. August marks the annual festival of Davaoños, called Kadayawan, coming from the word, *madayaw*, meaning good. This is the time of the month when locals express their gratitude to Him who provided them with a fertile land and a productive harvest through colorful parades, floats and dances. Although it has yet to become a byword like the Ati-Atihan or Pahiyas, the Kadayawan festival is in no way less merry or kaleidoscopic than the other fiestas in the country. In fact, several photographers, TV crew and reporters flew in from all over the country to witness the grand spectacle last month.

The locals did not disappoint anyone with their artistry and creativity. Even more impressive, the organizers and participants were able to put up a grand show despite the short time they were given to prepare. There were even talks that this year's festival might not push through because of the many crises facing the government. But doing so would all the more dampen the Filipino spirit. And so it was a good thing that the party went on for it made everyone very happy, judging by the smiles in their faces.

We were just in time for the culmination of the festivities, which was on the third week of that month. Smart Communications was on hand to guide us through the many activities scheduled for the next three days. For one, what started as a Bagobo pastime has become a favorite local event. Horse fighting is similar to cockfighting, and with an IQ of over 50, you'd know the difference between these two. What sparks the fight is the affection of a mare. Unlike humans, horses never go for *ménage à trois*, so they prefer that the best stallion wins. But animal lovers, don't fret. No horse gets killed for each round ends as soon as one of the horses backs down or if both stallions aren't interested to fight. Which brings us to two theories: one, the mare isn't



"I LIKE that joke, ha, in fairness..."



THE APPEARANCE of the white lady in this shot scared the hell out of us.

lovely enough; two, oh... never mind.

Tribal dancing

Another highly anticipated event was the Indak-Indakan Parade or tribal dancing in the streets. Here, traditions of the Bagobo, T'boli and Manobo become alive as adult and children alike relive their ancestral myths and folklore through their dances and the beat of their instruments. But to add to the level of excitement and energy among everyone, the parade is also a contest, giving that sense of competition

which all the more made the parade world-class. This event lasted for more than two hours, with the revelry stretching from the Millennium Park to Rizal Park. It wasn't hard to see passersby making a time out to watch before proceeding to do a twist or two.

The next day, a different kind of parade was seen in the city—the Floral Float Parade. This pageantry of flowers has been going on for a little less than 20 years now (even older than Baguio's); however, only four floats competed this year.

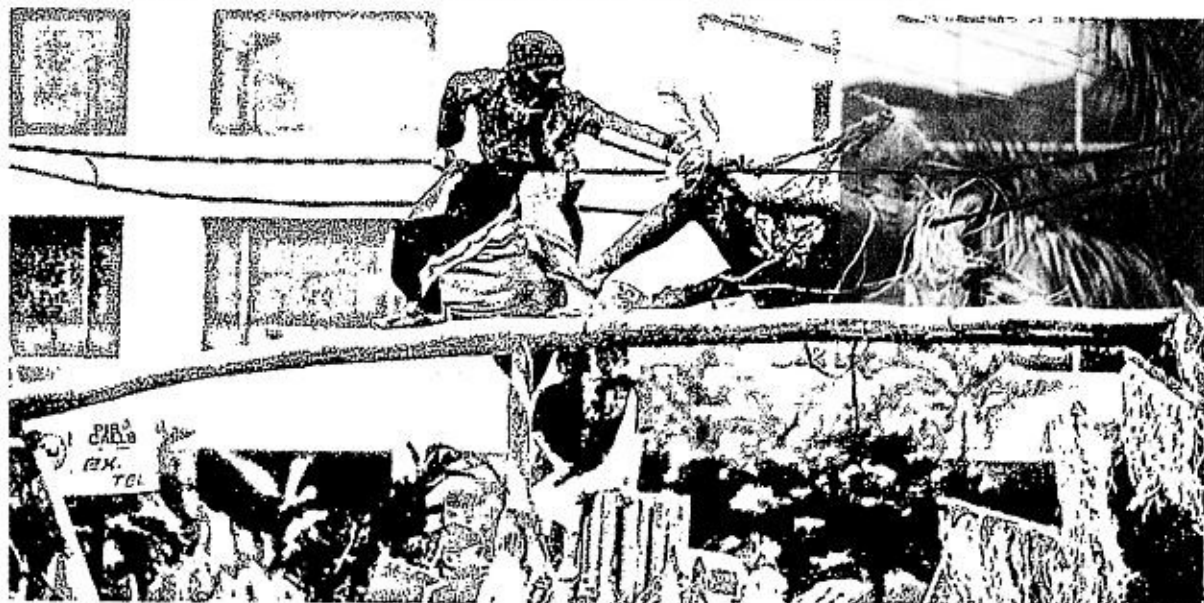
The most noticeable was the Sarimanok, Mindanao's mythical bird. Its wings and regal feather tail were ingeniously crafted, not to mention that on its beak was the Sarimanok's catch of the day—a fish. No wonder it won the grand prize in the parade.

Aside from these events, the festival also held exhibits such as the Agro-Industrial Trade Fair and the Horticultural exhibit, both at Magsaysay Park. Davao is also the land of orchids and durian, and the difference in smell spells heaven and hell. The smell of orchids, of course, is lovely. As for the durian, it is a curse. The exhibits only showcased the best of products Davao offers. Examples were the large pomelos and the mini-gardens, which displayed both flowers and cacti.

These events were not lost on the locals. Everywhere, there was a gathering of big crowds and one could barely squeeze himself in. But that was the end of any hassle anyone might have experienced in Davao. You'd even forget that the damn Abu Sayyaf crooks are in the same region as you were. Could it be the smell of durian?



REVELERS show their support to Rosebud.



AND, in a swift motion, the town was able to get rid of the cell-phone snatcher.

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Recent Studies conducted by medical researchers at Georgetown University and best-selling author Dr. Michael Roizen have shown that whole, natural food like California Grapes have a natural combination of phytonutrients such as resveratrol and several flavonoids that can provide you with the most health benefits.

Resveratrol, primarily found on the skin of grapes, helps keep the immune system young and lowers the risk of breast, liver and colon cancer, stroke, heart disease and memory loss. Moreover, it's been proven to have strong antioxidant properties that can help prevent cell damage. On the other hand, flavonoids such as quercetin, anthocyanin and catechin, effectively slow down the aging of the arteries to help keep your cardiovascular system in tip-top shape!

With all these healthy benefits bunched up with each hearty serving of California Grapes, you can afford to give in to your cravings and still be in good shape! Go ahead and indulge on the sweet taste of California Grapes—whether dished up as an ingredient in your favorite recipes or conveniently eaten as a snack.

So give in to your sweet cravings! Treat yourself and your family with deliciously nutritious California Grapes—the sweet, healthy snack that's really good for you!

Buy any California Grapes variety from participating supermarkets and get a coupon for a free health check-up.

Present this coupon at the California Grapes Health Station on these dates and locations:

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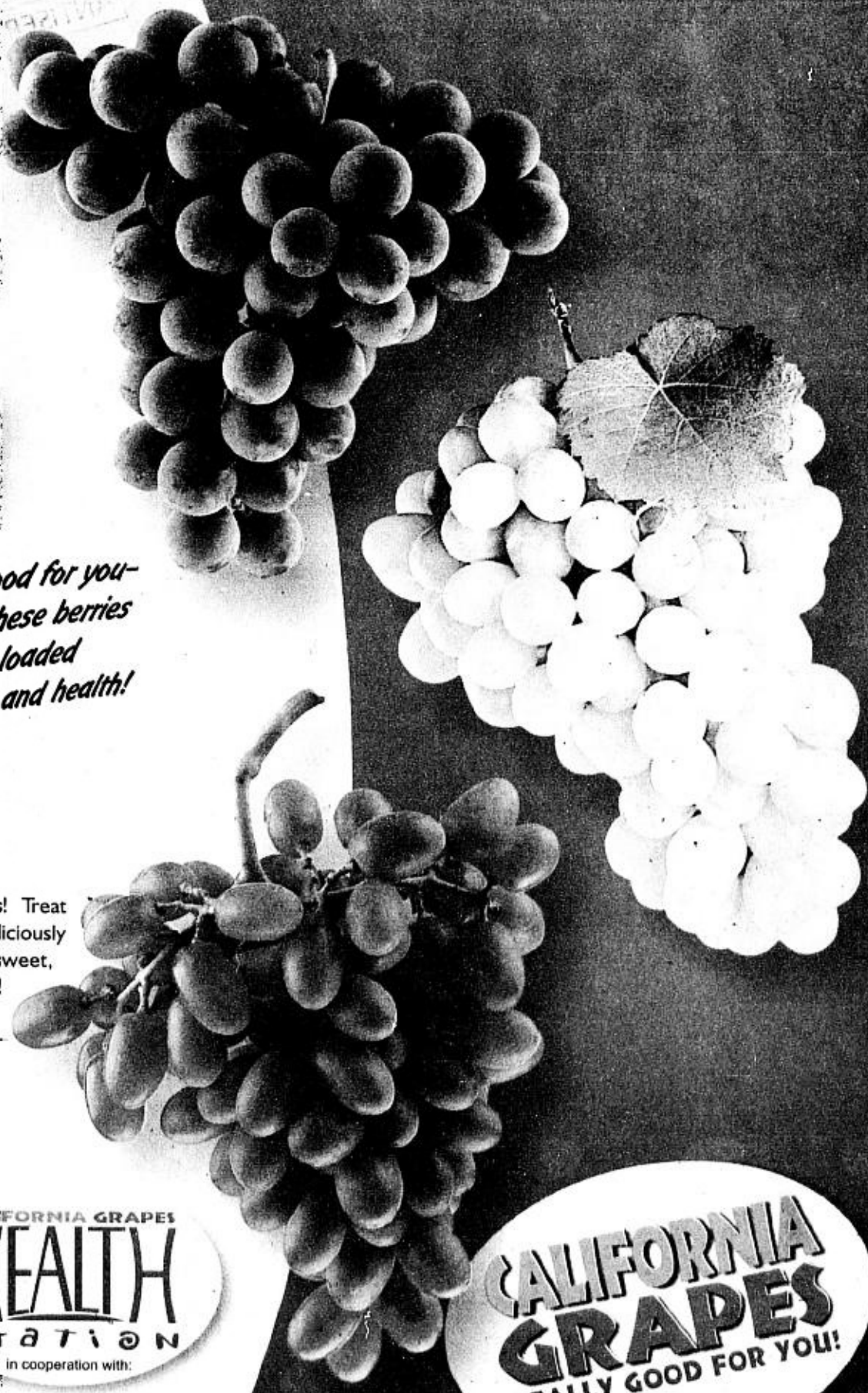
SM City North Edsa
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Davao swings to the beat of a new band

WE chanced upon Brownbeat All-Stars' lead vocalist Myra Ruaro feasting on a *balasugi* steak at the Gaisano Mall, Davao City. Their band, which just turned three last Aug. 18, was performing at the Grand Regal Hotel that night. We managed to catch up with her and the band's latest happenings.

How is Brownbeat All-Stars?

As always, we're cool. We're absolutely having fun in every gig that we do. Right now, our priority is to do more original compositions. Recently our single, "Hunger," was released internationally, particularly in Miami and Spain. It's part of a compilation album of ska music from all over the world. We're also busy promoting our self-titled album under Vivaneo records. Our latest single is our version of the Apo Hiking Society song, "Mahirap Talagang Magmahal ng Syota ng Iba." Overall, we're taking things one day one at a time and having the best time doing just that.

We know you're a ska/swing band, but how would you really define your music?

Our influences are ska and reggae, and these are Jamaican music. Also, we're into swing big bands, which are affiliated with jazz. Aside from



RUARO: "People here are very warm and polite."

those influences, our music has soul and Latin flavors. Put those elements together and you get the Brownbeat sound. It is danceable. You cannot just confine our music to a particular genre. It's a hybrid of sounds.

What brought you to Davao?

We were invited here by the hotel to perform for one evening. It's Brownbeat All-Stars first time here in Davao so we're absolutely delighted. So far it's great. We've already done some touring, *ukay-ukay* shopping and eating.

How would you compare the Davao crowd with the Manila audience?

Iba syempre. Una na, first time nila nakita ang Brownbeat. But the good thing about the people here is that they're not new to ska and reggae. So you can really see that they had a good time. But unlike the Manila crowd, they still have to be "pushed" to dance.

So how's your Davao experience so far?

Grabe, the best! Davao is like Manila, only better because it's not clogged. It's easy to go anywhere since there are no traffic jams. People are very warm and polite. They give us souvenir items at *sila pa yung nahihiya!* Also, I've tasted the freshest seafood here. *Talo'pa yung sa amin*

sa Malabon, which is a known seafood place. Fresh panga ng tuna, P55 *balasugi* steak—*ang sarap-sarap!* And, of course, durian is all over the place.

Jason Doplito

"Brownbeat All-Stars" the album is now available in all major record outlets. Myra will have an exhibit this month featuring nude sketches of her by different artists at Hobbit House and Mayric's (Sept. 20).

3rd UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship

IN CELEBRATION of the campus press in the country, the Varsitarian, the 73-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2001, the 3rd UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship on Oct. 23-25 at the UST Medicine Auditorium.

This year's speakers include Ma. Lourdes Molina Fernandez (editor in chief, Today) on news writing, Joaquin "Quinto" Henson (sports columnist, Philippine Star) on sports writing, Peachy Yamsuan (editor, Family Life Magazine) on feature writing, Nestor Cuartero (entertainment editor, Tempo) on lifestyle/culture writing, Chay Hofileña (member, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism) on investigative reporting, Virgilio S. Almario (former executive director, National Commission for Culture and the Arts) on Filipino journalism, and Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera (Ramon Magsaysay honoree for Literature, Journalism and Creative Communication Arts) on literary criticism.

The three-day fellowship will also feature discussions and symposia on "Journalism and the Philippine Society" by National Artist for Literature Francisco Sionil Jose; "The State of the Philippine Campus Press" by INQUIRER subsection editor and Varsitarian publications adviser Joselito B. Zulueta, and "Gender and Culture Sensitive Journalism" by INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David.

This year's fellowship is open to student writers, campus press advisers, high school and college journalism instructors, students and school officials nationwide wanting to put up their own campus publications, and everyone interested in improving campus journalism.

Two of this year's highlights are the first-ever nationwide Campus Investigative Journalism Award, sponsored by Julio Macaranas Jr., a Washington-based legal editor and former Varsitarian editor in chief, and the launching of the Varsitarian Campus Press Stylebook.

The investigative award is open to all campus journalists and publications in the college level.

There will be a registration fee of P600. This will cover the workshop kit and snacks during the three-day activity. The Varsitarian will host a dinner for all participants on the first and last days.

Visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 112, UST Main Building, or call Reyann V. Kong, Stephen Roy O. Chua-Rojas or Ma. Lynda C. Corpuz at 731-3101 local 8235, Reyann at (0919) 282-5095 or Stephen at (0917) 520-5018. Register online at www.ust.edu.ph/varsitarian.

New-age toys for all fantasies

THE NEW generation of toys and games was unveiled by Ban Kee Trading Inc., a leading importer and distributor of some of the world's best known and most popular toy brands, during its annual trade show held Sept. 5 at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Pasig City.

The event was highlighted by the guest appearance of the Powerpuff Girls who proved to be a big sensation among the guests.

Aside from best-selling brands such as Powerpuff Girls, Dexter's Laboratory, Pokemon, Rugrats, Disney's Dalmatian 102, Mickey Mouse & Winnie the Pooh, Zoids and Graco, other crowd-drawers were Harry Potter, Bit Racer, Intoyz, Rock Em Sock Em Robots, Sassy Blues Clues, and Thomas the Tank.

Among the major international manufacturers represented in the show were Tomy, Trendmasters, Wizards of the Coast, Mattel, Ohio Art, Graco, The First Years, Century and Intex.

The one-day trade exhibit, which served as a preview of Ban Kee's 2001-2002 collection items, drew the attendance of all of its retailers.

Also vying for their share of the buyers' attention were current craze and top seller Pokemon and the newest Harry Potter trading card games. A demo area for the Harry Potter trading card game provided guests a bird's eye view of how the game is played.

Spectators were also drawn to the booth of Tomy die-cast car models from Tomy, which has cornered a majority share of the growing local diecast car model market.

Present to meet the guests were top executives of Ban Kee Trading led by Eric C. Bautista, president; Kathy Bautista, vice president; Nancy Gotamco, general manager; and Marvie Rances-Samala, marketing and advertising/promotions manager.

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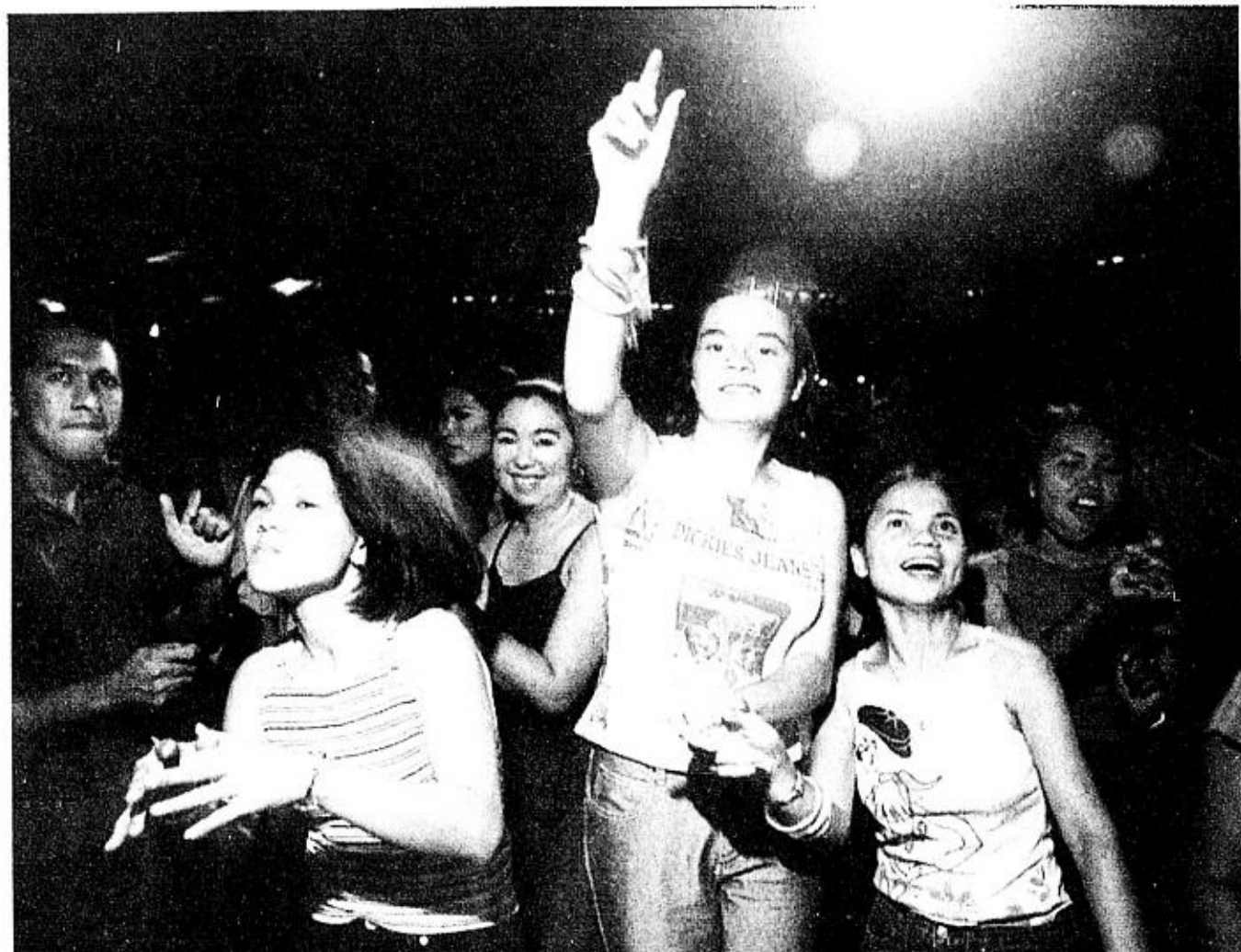
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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE



FRONT PAGE!
These sleeveless beauties sure know how to make it to the fashion news.



"UMM, miss...bukas 'yung zipper n'yo." Beatnik chick Sarah Meier



NOW tell me the truth, who undid your last button?

Davao dazzlers



"CAN we include my little brother in this picture?" Sorry, can't find that picture.



UKAY-UKAY DELIGHT. Myra Ruaro with her Davao finds

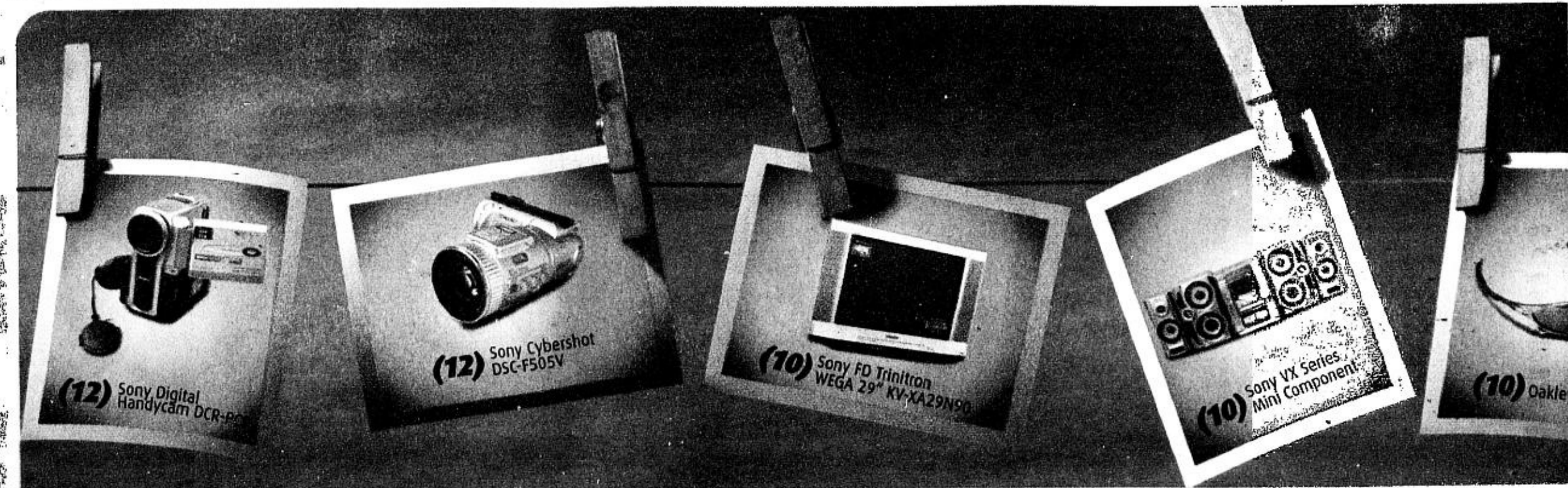
DAVAO is Manila with everything flashy, gaudy and superficial stripped off. In other words, what you see is definitely what you get. Unlike their counterparts in Manila who have wasted their energy on buying things that would make them look "cool," teenagers in Davao don't have to torture themselves about what to wear. Dressing up for them is effortless fun. That's what comes with living in a city that's naturally beautiful. **JD**



TWO needles in the haystack. The sporty and shiny jackets are attention-grabbing.



THE KING Coopa/Darth Vader/multi-horned rhinoceros/pineapple look. The headgear is so cool even the Tasmanian Devil couldn't upset him.



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zed



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Light your way to correct makeup

ASKED on a hot date by the man of her dreams, what woman would not want to look her best?

You would probably practice applying your makeup the day before to get that perfect look. Did you ever experience your perfect makeup looking weird and ugly when you get to the meeting place?

The problem is not you. It is the lighting. When you practiced your makeup, it was probably by the window and with natural light, which everyone agrees is the most accurate. Unfortunately, hot dates happen in the evening. Instead of natural light, you get dimly lit rooms or garish lighting in clubs. The same makeup will look different in daylight, twilight or night-light.

The right light is vital to successful makeup. It can play strange tricks with its strength and shadows, although they can be used to your advantage if you are aware of them. It is very important to accept the basic structure of your face and make the most of it. Light changes color, affects tone and depth and alters shape. Light can make you look younger or older.

Knowing the lighting in the place where you are meeting your date is important in ensuring the best look. If it isn't formal, avoid the beauty salon makeup because guys don't like loaded faces. You can do it yourself provided you follow the guidelines I researched below.

General rule: In broad daylight, sheer foundation and light makeup in subdued shades are best since natural light flatters the face. Evenings tend to make us look washed out so more or deeper shades of makeup are called for.

• Blinking disco lights—They can do wonderful or strange things to the colors and contour of your face. Rounded faces are favored, as they look more chiseled, while narrow faces or those with strong bone structures tend to look gaunt. Use bright glittering colors if you are staying there the whole night. If not, opt for a little subtlety or you will look tacky elsewhere—body sparkle, frosty makeup and shimmering foundation. All that energy calls for a lot of loose powder to sustain the matte skin longer.

• Incandescent electric light—You need definite colors if you tend



Kinny Salas

to look washed out—real reds or deep pinks for lips. Brown shadows should be blended in with color like purple, pink and blue so they don't look like dark circles. Apply a bit more than usual.

• Fluorescent light—Wear lighter makeup than necessary as this light tends to make the skin look grayish. A little amount goes a long way so apply lightly and blend, blend, blend. If incandescent understates, this one exaggerates. Normal evening makeup looks thick and gothic. Natural look is best. If you must have bright lips, keep everything else pale. Use apricot or light pink blush.

• Neon lights—Neon lights are harsh. Avoid pale lips and grays and browns that make the cheeks look hollow. Choose strong colors like fuchsia, tangerine and coral. Outline the edge of your lips for definition. Try rose, bronze and copper for eyes.

• Candlelight—Undoubtedly the most flattering, unless you're sunburned. Avoid orange lips and hard eyes. Shape your face softly and use lots of blusher. Soften and blush the face and lengthen the eyes (à la Audrey Hepburn). Violet/mauve toned makeup is very flattering and romantic looking. For lips, try blue reds or wine shades in a sheer formula and matte mauve, prune or grape for eyes.

If possible, when getting ready, use the same lighting as the place you are going to when applying your makeup. Prepare all the tools and colors you need and start early so you will have time for corrections. Let the makeup set for 10 minutes then inspect for touch-ups or corrections.

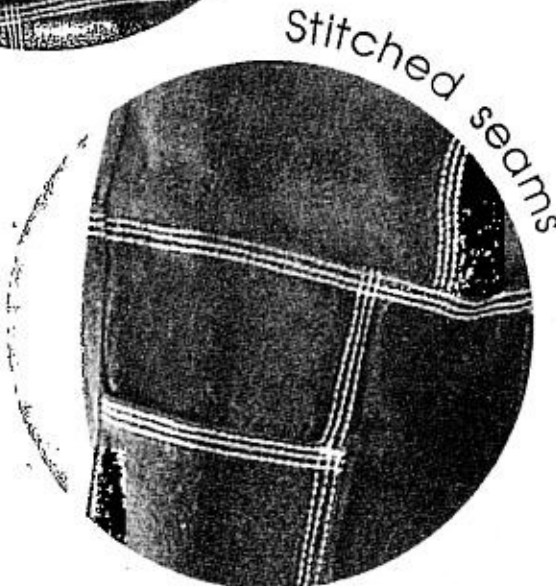
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Penny

(10) Game Boy Advance

(10) Sony CD Walkman

(10) Oakley Minute Jacket

(10) Nike Triax 50 laps

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Watch out for the next weekly draw on Sept. 17, 2001.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



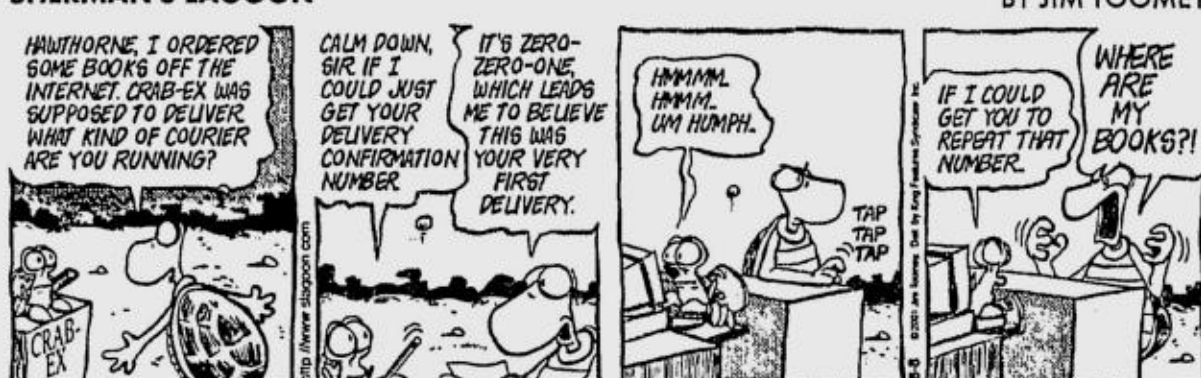
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Jones, Linda Gray, Maria Muldaur, Barry White, Jesse Owens, Rachel Ward, Michael Ondaatje

Happy Birthday: Take a look at yourself: full of vim and vigor and ready to take on the world. You have the charm, discipline and know-how to attain the victory that you've been aiming for, so proceed with confidence and stamina. You know how much you can accomplish if you focus and are persistent. Your numbers: 13, 22, 28, 29, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Domestic investments will be lucrative. Get out and play. Physical activities will be rejuvenating. Take time to listen to friends who have problems. Your wisdom will be welcomed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be especially creative today. Your boss will appreciate your attention to fine detail on a particularly difficult job.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may lack confidence and feel insecure about yourself and your direction. Make plans to spend time with friends who can lift your spirits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone will realize that you have a good thing going and will try to outshine you. Don't be too generous with others. If you have an original idea or plan, be sure to claim the credit you deserve.

CANCER (June 21-July 21): You need some tender, loving care and may not be in the best frame of mind. If you spend time on an enjoyable hobby, you will turn things around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to put on your thinking cap regarding your future direction. Sign up for interesting courses that will provide information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's not necessary to do all the work yourself. Just do what you can and don't make promises to those at home. Visitors may drop by unexpectedly, causing friction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need to participate. Join a club that will provide stimulating conversation and challenging competition. That do-or-die attitude will make you a fierce opponent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't gamble and you won't lose. It's time to get serious and make conservative investments, which will be there when you need the money. Be smart and avoid financial worries.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's not that hard to please and accommodate others. Do what you can and they will reciprocate. Life isn't difficult if you play by the rules and do what's best for everyone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your ability to work with others will be advantageous. Don't let your boss put you on the spot regarding a job someone else did. Be diplomatic but honest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on self-improvement and feeling better about yourself. You've got a lot to offer, so get busy and lend a hand. It's time you got out and started contributing again.

Birthday Baby: You are responsive to loved ones' feelings and will build a secure life at home. Your nurturing qualities bring kindness and warmth in return.

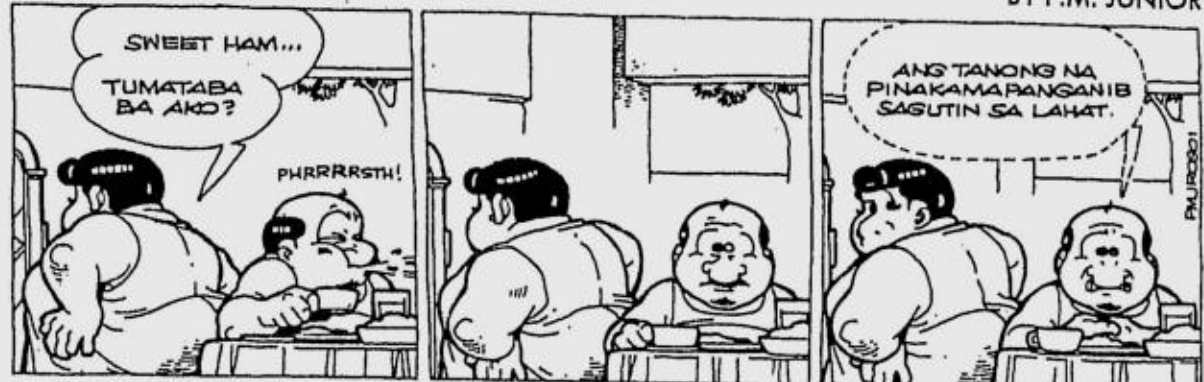
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SIMO

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B1 GANG

BY ATS11/JEA/FEVG



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HI AND LOIS

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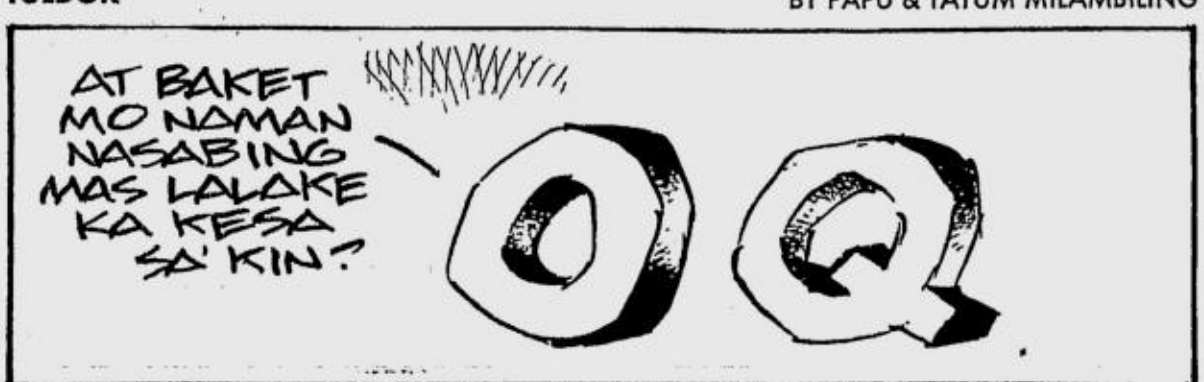
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



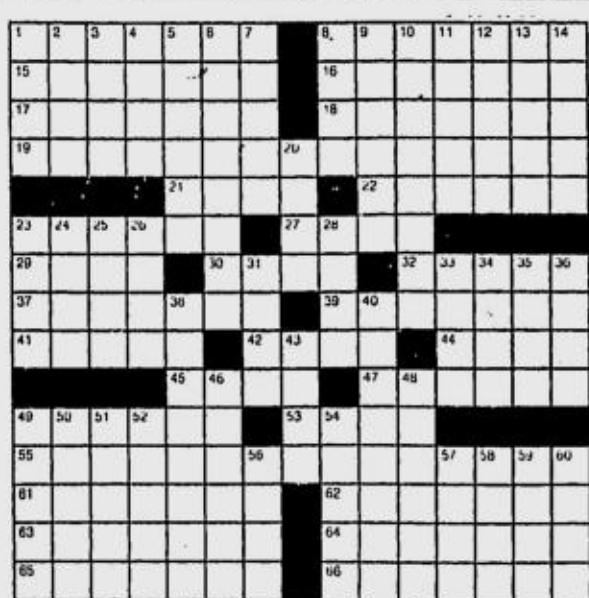
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pinch roller
8 River near Monterey
15 One of two mask features
16 Inactive medication
17 City near Cheyenne
18 Losing competitor
19 Expressed scorn
21 Cameo gem
22 Hangman's knots
23 Melonlike fruit
27 Simplicity
29 German car maker
30 Zesty flavor
32 "Touched by an Angel" star
37 Change tags
39 Delta follower
41 Lauder of cosmetics
42 In of
44 Jules Verne's captain
45 Linguist
47 Vexes
49 Gains points
53 Suffix for adherents
55 Well-defended
61 Having more foliage
62 For the thrill
63 Moral
64 Outfits
65 City on Puget Sound
66 Fearsome African flies



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

7/28/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

AFAR ELIHU SQMI
VOLE DIVAN QUOD
ARAL INADEQUATE
STRAITEN QUINTA
TEMPLES QUIRT
SID QUALMISH
BEREA QUELL ZOO
ORES QUASS GERM
AID QUOIT PASTE
RESQUATS ALI
OUJRE PSANDQS
SQUINT CASTSOUT
QUARTERAGE ARIA
YORK TITANT YIPS
DIES SPENT SASH

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46 Bony
48 Contents of a will
49 Market figures
50 Mediterranean island
51 Cornhusker city
52 Equip for additional use
54 Young pig
56 Heraldic band
57 Perfect prose?
58 Listening devices
59 Sycamore or Baobab
60 British pianist Myra

DOWN
1 Breton, e.g.
2 Lady's maid in India
3 Machu Picchu locale
4 False front
5 Hoyden
6 Disaffect
7 Destitute
8 Bridge
9 Ginsberg and Drury
10 Ropers
11 Image; pref.
12 Peter and Franco
13 Degrade
14 Loudness units
20 Yoked pair
23 Skin opening
24 Simians
25 Bombard
26 Winglike part
28 "The African Queen" screenwriter
31 brave
33 Mozart's "kline Nachtmusik"
34 Alt.
35 Unspecified amount
36 Adam's grandson
38 Infamous traitor
39 Arnold
40 Campers' shelters
43 Copy; abbr.

Jam muna tayo!



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PAL <PLAYER NAME> and send to 290.
To get the list of available Talk 'N Text
Phone Pals, type <LIST> and send to 290.

Slambook



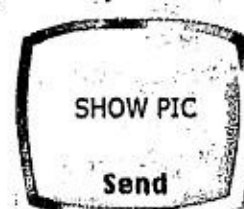
To know your Idol's
favorite things, type
FAVE <CATEGORY>
and send to 290.
Example: Food, movie,
song etc.

Superstar Skeds



To get updated on your
Idol's daily calendar, type
CAL <MM/DD> and send
to 290.

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FRANCHISE ASIA 2001

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2001 • MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & WORLD TRADE CENTER

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

MESSAGES



WARMEST felicitations to the Philippine Franchise Association and all the participants to Franchise Asia 2001.

It is with pleasure that I welcome foreign delegates, participants and players in the franchise industry. I congratulate PFA for hosting this important international event and coming out with the Franchise Asia handbook. I urge all of you to promote the global growth of franchising industry through investments, networking and exchange of ideas. I encourage you to seize the opportunities in the Philippine economy by investing in the country's franchise industry and thus support our aim to win the opportunities for growth and development in the global era.

The Philippine economy offers solid opportunities for the franchising industry. We are committed to pursuing our goal of greater national development by continuing to foster an environment conducive to investments. As we proceed in this growth path in today's competitive global environment, we intend to make our business climate more attractive to potential investors. Our imperatives include an environment of transparency, level playing field and renewed investor confidence.

I wish the success of Franchise Asia 2001 as the nation moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations of sustainable development and ensuring the aspirations of the Filipino people for greater peace, progress, and prosperity.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines



I WELCOME the participants to Franchise Asia 2001 to be held in the Philippines on September 12-16, 2001. This prestigious international event dubbed as Asia's biggest franchise show is expected to showcase the best the franchise industry has to offer in a highly competitive economy.

Franchising, the most successful marketing concept introduced in years, has already made its mark in the country. It is remarkable that during the Asian currency crisis in 1997, when most of the local business sectors were undergoing economic slowdown, the franchise industry had not only survived the downturn, it even posted an astounding 70-percent growth rate.

I congratulate the Philippine Franchise Association for being accorded the distinct privilege of hosting this prestigious annual event. The opportunity this occasion offers in terms of developing the franchise industry is indeed enormous. It will provide foreign, as well as home-grown, franchisees the chance to expand their business operations to the whole of Asia—the biggest potential market for their products and services being the world's largest continent accommodating 60 percent of its population and consisting about one-third of its land area.

I exhort everyone to make this illustrious convention an avenue to forge new friendship and, in turn, establish a network of business partners as you work together to make this world a better place to live in.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.
TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines



OUR WARMEST greetings to the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation as it initiates Franchise Asia 2001 to be held 12-16 September 2001 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila and the Makati Shangri-La hotel.

The franchising industry is one of the strongest forces driving the Asia Pacific's economies and factors point to continuing growth and greater success. In the Philippines alone, franchising has grown from only 50 franchises in the early 90's to over 500 in 2001—a spectacular 800-percent expansion in franchising operations.

This development may be largely attributed to the relentless promotion efforts of the private sector, particularly by associations like the APFC, the World Franchise Council, and the Philippine Franchise Association who jointly organize events such as this to bring together businessmen, entrepreneurs, policymakers and financiers in mapping out plans, programs and strategies for the industry. Indeed, franchising should serve as an excellent investment opportunity and alternative in a global economy that is becoming more and more borderless everyday.

With this faith in the industry, DTI is one with the PFA and the whole franchising sector in the goal of further developing an industry that can help create more income-generating and employment opportunities for the Philippine economy.

Mabuhay!

Mar Roxas
MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry



FRANCHISE Asia 2001 to be held in Manila on September 12-16, 2001 is the product of over one year operation and work. Given the high standards set by the previous hosts of this event, Philippine Franchise Association has given

its best in meeting set expectations.

The privilege of hosting Franchise Asia 2001, the biggest franchise event in Asia, is a momentous event indeed and thus, will give pride to the entire franchise industry and to the Philippines as well. The organizing committee of Franchise Asia 2001 would like to extend its gratitude to the Office of the President, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Tourism, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their full support of the event.

In this regard, we would like to welcome all of you to Manila to Attend the biggest franchise event in Asia, thus creating greater synergy for the Asia Pacific region's franchise industry.

Mabuhay!

Samie Lim
SAMIE LIM
Chairman
Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation

4-in-1 showcase of region's best

THE Philippines thru the Philippine Franchise Asia won the bid to host Franchise Asia 2001, the annual international event organized by the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC), slated for Sept. 12-16, 2001 in Makati Shangri-la Hotel and World Trade Center.

Franchise Asia 2001 will bring together Four Big Franchise Events in One Franchise show: Franchise Asia 2001 Conference, Sept. 13-14 at Makati Shangri-la Hotel; Franchise Asia 2001 Expo, Sept. 14-16 at World Trade Center; World Franchise Council Meeting on Sept. 12 at

Makati Shangri-la Hotel; and Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation on Sept. 13 at Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

APFC envisions the Franchise Asia show to be the venue to facilitate the global growth of franchising that will create an opportunity for the exchange of best practices, technical know-how, and produce thousands of small-and-medium-scale enterprises and millions of jobs.

Franchise Asia 2001 is organized by Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation in cooperation with the World Franchise Council and Philippine Franchise Association.

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The World to Asia

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Conference: September 13-14, 2001 • Makati Shangri-La Hotel / Expo: September 14-16, 2001 • World Trade Center

SEPTEMBER 13, 2001 (Thursday)

Franchise Asia 2001 Conference

A.M. Session 8:30 - 12:00

Opening Ceremonies

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong
Chairman and President, Jollibee Foods Corporation

Asia: The Fastest Growing Market in the World

by: Leonard Swartz
Managing Director for Franchising,
Arthur Andersen

Industry Updates: Trends and Innovations

- Philippines by: Samie Lim
- New Zealand by: Robert Fowler
- China by: Pei Liang

Track 1: Industry Update: Trends and Innovations 1:00 - 5:30 pm

- Australia by: Jim McCracken
- Indonesia by: Anang Sukandar
- Malaysia by: Amin Nik Majid
- Japan by: Yasuo Matuoka
- Singapore by: Albert Kong
- Taiwan by: Chung Jen Hsu
- Thailand by: Paradorn
- Canada by: Richard Cunningham

Franchising in Europe

by: Chantal Zimmer, Exec Dir, EFF
Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economies in the Medium Term

by: Bernardo Villegas, Dean-School of Economics, UA&P
How to Expand Your Franchise Network
by: Don Boroian Chairman, Francorp International

Simultaneous Sessions

Track 2: Franchise Sales & Marketing Strategies 1:00 - 3:00 pm

by: Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

Track 3: Information Technology New Dimensions in Franchise Retailing 3:30 - 4:30 pm

by: Eymard Altoveros, Consultant, SAP Philippines

Social Franchising/Michael Amies 4:30 - 5:15 pm

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)

Franchise Asia 2001 Conference

9:00 - 12:00 nn

Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development

by: Leonard Swartz, Managing Dir. for Franchising, Arthur Andersen
Vicente Paterno, Chairman and President, Philippine Seven Corporation
Michael Amies, Sibley International

Global Trends & Innovations & the Growth of Franchising in the U.S
by: William LeSante, Vice Chairman for Global Marketing Group

Voices of Experience: From the "Masters" of Franchising

by: William Callagan, Multi-Brand Manager, Tricon, Inc.
Bill McGowan, Executive Chairman, Fastway Global Ltd.
The Success Story of Jollibee

by: Atty. Claro Certeza, Vice President, Jollibee Foods Corporation

Track 4: Finance 1:00 - 1:45 pm

Acquiring Capital to Build Your Franchise Network
by: David Franz, Finance Manager, OPIC

Track 5: Legal 1:45 - 5:00 pm

Structuring Franchise and Licensing Agreements

by: Atty. Pericles Casuela
Senior Associate, Quisumbing Torres

Arbitration as an Alternative
Solution to Settle Disputes
by: Louise Barrington, ICC

Legal Aspects in Franchising
by: Souichirou Kozuka

Associate Professor, Sophia Univ. Brian Smart
Dir. Gen., British Franchise Assoc.

Simultaneous Sessions

Track 6: Marketing & Dev't 1:00 - 5:30 pm

Supporting Your Franchisees:
Strategies That Build Winning Relationships
by: William Callagan, Tricon, Inc.

How to Succeed in Franchising in Asia
by: Joseph Lau, McDonald's
Lim Wee Kee, VP, Informatics

Re-Engineering Your Franchise Network
by: Ichiro Fujita, President, Idea Link Japan

Revitalizing Your Brand
by: Emily Abrera, Chairman, McCann Erickson
Elements of Successful Franchising

by: Peter Slomianky, President, Subway

September 15, 2001, 1-5 pm World Trade Center

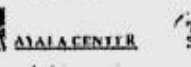
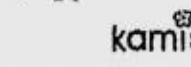
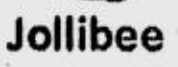
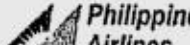
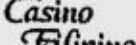
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Franchise Asia 2001 Secretariat Office
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Fax No. (632) 687-0365 * Website: www.franchiseasia2001.com
Expo at World Trade Center on Sept. 14 - 16, 2001. For more information call Worldexco at 891-8638

ASIA PACIFIC FRANCHISE CONFEDERATION

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

THE ESTABLISHMENT of Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation was proposed to the World Franchise Council Meeting in Las Vegas, United States. The proposed APFC had been suggested by the Malaysian Franchise Association (MFA) and strongly supported by Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), Singapore International Franchise Association (SIFA), Indonesia Franchise Association (IFI), Japanese Franchise Association (JFA), Hong Kong Franchise Association (HKFA), Franchise Council of Australia (FCA) and Franchise Association of New Zealand (FANZ). The main purpose of the APFC is to encourage regional grouping, understanding and strengthening the cooperation in protecting and promoting franchising within Asia-Pacific, as well as worldwide.

It was decided in the meeting that MFA will take the lead to organize this meeting with relevant recognized national franchise associations of other Asia-Pacific countries and MFA will

submit the consensus to the WFC Secretariat by July 1998. APFC was launched September 25, 1998 during the Malaysian Franchise Exhibition and Conference '98 (Mafec '98).

Objectives

- To provide a forum within which properly constituted and recognized National Franchise Associations in the Asia Pacific region can share experiences, information and technical "know-how" on franchising, including the possibility of the establishment of better communication channels among members.
- To encourage the development of properly constituted National Franchise Associations in all countries within the Asia-Pacific region in order to strengthen the industry networking regionally.
- To represent regional information on franchising and the common views of National Franchise Associations within the region to international bodies, i.e., WFC, EFF, etc.

TONY TAN CAKTING

DONALD BOROIAN
Chairman, Francorp International

LOUISE BARRINGTON, JD. FCIArb
Chair, Working Party on Small Claims Arbitration
International Chamber of Commerce
Int'l. Lawyer, Teacher, Administrator, Arbitrator, Mediator

SAMIE LIM
Chairman, Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation
Vice Chairman for Asia, World Franchise Council
International Chairman, Phil. Franchise Association

DAVID FRANTZ
Finance Department Manager, Project Finance
Overseas Private Investment Corporation

PETER SLOMANYJ
President of North Carolina Subway Group, Inc.

CHANTAL ZIMMER
Executive Director, French Franchise Federation

ALBERT KONG

RICHARD CUNNINGHAM
President, Canadian Franchise Association

SOUICHIROU KOZUKA
Associate Professor of Law, Sofia University, Tokyo

ICHIRO FUJITA
President, Idea Link Japan

BILL MCGOWAN
Founder & Chairman, Fastway Group of Companies
Past Chairman, World Franchise Council

WILLIAM CALLAGAN
Multibrand Manager, Tricon (KFC, Taco Bell & Pizza Hut)

JOSEPH LAU
Managing Director, McDonald's Philippines

BERNARDO VILLEGAS
Dean, School of Economics, University of Asia & the Pacific

BRIAN SMART
Director General, British Franchise Association

LIM WEE KEE
Vice President, Informatics Singapore

JIM MCCrackEN
Chief Executive Officer, Franchise Council of Australia

CHUENG JEN HSU
Chairman, Taiwan Chain Store and Franchise Association

VICENTE PATERNO
Chairman & President, Philippine Seven Corporation (7-Eleven)

PERICLES CASUELA
Senior Associate Attorney, Quisumbing Torres Law Offices

CLARO CERTEZA
Vice President for Legal Affairs, Jollibee Foods Corporation

YASUO MATSUOKA
Vice Chairman, Japan Franchise Association

LEONARD SWARTZ
Worldwide Managing Director
Arthur Andersen's Franchise Services

MICHAEL AMIES

WILLIAM LE SANTE
Vice President, International Development
Metromedia Restaurant Group

EMILY ABRERA
Chairman, McCann Erickson Philippines

EYMARDO ALTOVEROS
Consultant, SAP Philippines

NIK MOHAMED AMIN NIK ABDUL MAJID
Vice Chairman, Malaysian Franchise Association

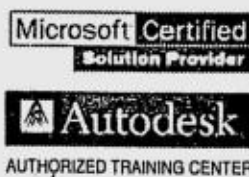
PARADORN INTAYOONG
Vice Chairman, Thailand Franchise Association

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M E S S A G E S

FRANCHISE Asia 2001 was conceived by Asia-Pacific franchise leaders who have this collective belief: franchising was only conceived and born in the West but will certainly realize its full potential in the East. Franchising was the only industry to register phenomenal and consistent growth during the Asian economic crisis. Having the biggest population in the world, Asia definitely offers lucrative franchise opportunities tantamount to success.

Franchise Asia is a venue where global markets are given a golden opportunity—Asia is introduced to the global franchising markets, and at the same time, the world markets will have an opportunity to get to know the Asian franchising sector.

The Philippine Franchise Association is proud to be part of this momentous international event.

Welcome to Manila!

BING SIBAL-LIMJOCO
Over-All Chair
Franchise Asia 2001

THE FRANCHISING industry in the Asia Pacific region has been growing from strength to strength since its introduction to Asia by the West. The growth of franchising in the Asian markets has been so phenomenal that it has been predicted that the apex of the industry shall be attained in Asia.

Thus, the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) is privileged to host Franchise Asia 2001 conference and Expo, an annual event organized by Asia Pacific Franchise confederation (APFC).

It is indeed an honor to welcome all of you in Manila.

MANUEL M. SIGGAOAT
President
Philippine Franchise Association

IN VIEW of the significant social and technological changes occurring within the global village, it is commendable that Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation is holding Franchise Asia 2001 where franchise experts and leaders can converge and share their knowledge with all the players. This will then translate into more level playing field for the industry.

On behalf of the Filipino people, we at the Philippine Franchise Association, welcome you and wish you success. Mabuhay!

REYNALDO CONCEPCION
Chairman
Philippine Franchise Association

AS CHAIRMAN of the World Franchise Council for 2001, the French Franchise Federation is delighted to extend its support for Franchise Asia 2001.

Conferences such as these promote franchising and contribute to the education of global partners who deserve transparency, loyalty and equity in the rights and duties of the franchisor and this franchisees.

Congratulations to the Asia Franchise Confederation in this worthwhile endeavor!

PIERRE NORMAND
Chairman
World Franchise Council

WE at the International Franchise Association salute the Philippine Franchise Association for its untiring efforts in launching events which provide opportunities for business excellence needed by tomorrow's entrepreneurs.

Franchise Asia 2001 holds much promise for those who are determined to explore the world of franchising. The event offers a broad array of services and provides a wealth of knowledge that will open many doors for future economic growth.

Best wishes in pursuing your business dreams!

JAMES AMOS
Chairman
International Franchise Association

FRANCHISE Asia 2001, to be held in Manila on September 12-16, 2001, shall be a forum wherein Asia shall be introduced to global markets while the global markets shall be given an opportunity to closely examine Asian markets. The show shall be the venue where a transfer of knowledge and know-how shall occur, thus, resulting in a stronger franchising industry within the region.

In this regard, we would like to welcome all the delegates to discover the many investment opportunities in Asia Pacific as they listen to presentations at the conference and visit the booth at the Expo.

To you all, Mabuhay!

VICENTE T. PATERNO
Honorary Chairman
Philippine Franchise Association

WITHIN our global village, significant economic and technological changes occur that result in a need for cooperation. Hence, it is commendable that the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation has organized Franchise Asia 2001, which will gather franchise experts and players under one roof.

It is indeed the privilege of the Philippine Franchise Association to host the biggest franchise event in Asia—Franchise Asia 2001.

We hope to see you all in Manila. Mabuhay!

ERNESTO TANMANTIONG
Conference Chairman, Franchise Asia 2001
Executive Vice President, Jollibee Foods Corporation

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 13, 2001

PENSHPPE ROOM

7:30-8:30am Registration
 8:30-9:30am Opening Ceremonies
 9:30-10:15am KEYNOTE SPEECH
 TONY TAN CAKTIONG
 Chairman,
 CEO and President Jollibee Foods Corporation

10:15-10:30am Coffee Break
 10:30-11:15am ASIA: THE FASTEST GROWING MARKET IN THE WORLD
 LEONARD SWARTZ Worldwide Managing Director for Franchising
 Arthur Andersen

11:15-12:00nn INDUSTRY UPDATES: TRENDS & INNOVATIONS
 • Philippines
 SAMIE LIM, Founding President, Philippine Franchise Association
 • New Zealand
 ROBERT FOWLER, Chairman, Franchise Association of New Zealand
 • China
 PEI LIANG, Secretary General, China Chain-Store & Franchise Assoc.

12:00-1:00pm Lunch Break
 1:00-3:00pm BENCH ROOM
 TRACK 1 INDUSTRY UPDATES: TRENDS & INNOVATIONS
 • Australia
 JIM McCracken, CEO, Franchise Council of Australia
 • Indonesia
 ANANG SUKANDAR, Chairman, Indonesian Franchise Association
 • Malaysia
 NIK MOHAMED AMIN NIK ABDUL MAJID, Vice Chairman, Malaysian Franchise Association
 • Japan
 YASUO MATUOKA, Vice Chairman, Japan Franchise Association
 • Singapore
 ALBERT KONG, Chairman and CEO, FDS Asia Singapore International Franchise Association
 • Taiwan

3:00-3:15pm
 3:15-3:45pm

3:45-4:30pm

4:30-5:30pm

1:00-3:30pm

3:30-3:34pm

3:45-4:30pm

4:30-5:00

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

PENSHPPE ROOM

7:30-8:30am Registration
 8:30-9:45am FRANCHISING AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 LEONARD SWARTZ, Worldwide Managing Director for Franchising, Arthur Andersen
 VICENTE PATERNO, Chairman,

7:30-8:30am
 8:30-9:45am

7:30-8:30am
 8:30-9:45am

CHUNG JEN HSU, Chairman, Taiwan Chain-Store & Franchise Assoc.
 • Thailand
 PARADORN INTAYOONG, Vice Chairman, Thailand Franchise Association
 • Canada
 RICHARD CUNNINGHAM, President, Canadian Franchise Association

COFFEE BREAK
 FRANCHISING IN EUROPE
 CHANTAL ZIMMER, Executive Director, European Franchise Federation
 ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF ASIA
 PACIFIC ECONOMIES IN THE MEDIUM TERM
 BERNARDO VILLEGAS, Dean, School of Economics University of Asia and the Pacific

HOW TO EXPAND YOUR FRANCHISE NETWORK
 DONALD BOROIAN, Chairman, Francorp International

KAMISETA ROOM
 TRACK 2: FRANCHISE SALES AND MARKETING STRATEGIES
 DONALD BOROIAN, Chairman, Francorp International

COFFEE BREAK
 TRACK 3: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 NEW DIMENSIONS IN FRANCHISE RETAILING
 EYMARD ALTOVEROS, Consultant, SAP Philippines
 SOCIAL FRANCHISING
 MICHAEL AMIES, Associate Director, Sibley International

1:00-2:00pm
 2:00-3:00pm

3:00-3:15pm
 3:15-4:00pm

4:00-5:00pm

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9:45-10:30am

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11:45-12:00nn

1:00-2:00pm

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3:00-3:15pm
 3:15-4:00pm

4:00-5:00pm

Philippine Seven Corporation (7-Eleven)
 MICHAEL AMIES, Associate Director, Sibley International

GLOBAL TRENDS & INNOVATIONS & THE GROWTH OF FRANCHISING IN THE US
 WILLIAM LESANTE, Vice Chairman for Global Marketing Group, International Franchise Association
 COFFEE BREAK
 VOICES OF EXPERIENCE: FROM THE "MASTERS" OF FRANCHISING
 BILL McGOWAN, Chairman, Fastway Group of Companies
 Past Chairman, World Franchise Council
 WILLIAM CALLAGAN, Training Specialist, Tricon, Inc. (Pizza Hut, KFC, and Taco Bell)
 THE SUCCESS STORY OF JOLLIBEE
 ATTY. CLARO CERTEZA, Vice President for Legal Affairs, Jollibee Foods Corporation

1:00-1:45pm
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KAMISETA ROOM
 TRACK 6: MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
 SUPPORTING YOUR FRANCHISEES: STRATEGIES THAT BUILD WINNING RELATIONSHIPS
 WILLIAM CALLAGAN, Training Specialist, Tricon, Inc. (Pizza Hut, KFC and Taco Bell)
 HOW TO SUCCEED IN FRANCHISING IN ASIA
 JOSEPH LAU, Managing Director, McDonald's
 LIM WEE KEE, Vice President, Informatics Singapore
 Coffee Break
 RE-ENGINEERING YOUR FRANCHISE NETWORK
 ICHIRO FUJITA, President, Idea Link Japan
 REVITALIZING YOUR BRAND
 EMILY ABRERA, Chairman, McCann Erickson
 ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL FRANCHISING
 PETER SLOMIANYJ, President, North Carolina Subway Group, Inc.

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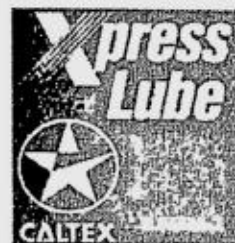
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